CHINA SCOLDS HARPER FOR LONG ABSENCE, PG6

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Celebrity Buzz

Rolling Stones' Wood arrested
pg 37

Group learns a costly lesson

West Hillhurst association awarded $200K in civil suit against former director

DARREN KRAUSE
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After nearly $200,000 was allegedly siphoned from a city community association, its president says they will learn from it, rebuild and move on.

According to Court of Queen's Bench documents dated Sept. 29, 2009, the West Hillhurst Community Association was awarded a sum of just over $200,000 in a civil case against its former executive director, Rodney Popowich.

The documents allege "misappropriated" monies over the period of September 2005 and October 2008, primarily via the community association's credit card, with unauthorized cash advances totalling nearly $100,000 and unauthorized purchases of $17,000.

"It's a big hit," said WHCA president Jim Eby, noting a financial audit is underway for 2007, '08 and '09.

Eby said establishing internal financial controls and reviewing facility maintenance are priorities in the wake of the alleged financial hit — and the board and "great group of volunteers" will aid the recovery.

"We can learn from the mistakes of the past," Eby said.

Naheed Nenshi, of Mount Royal University's non-profit studies degree program, said community associations don't have a lot of oversight by "anyone" and aren't always equipped to manage large financial and asset bases.

"Often times, these folks don't have a lot of training in governance and oversight," he said.

"I'm not usually a big fan of more government oversight — but in this particular case ... it seems to me that this probably is a role for the city, at least at a light level to make sure that financial statements are in place and to mediate disputes."

Leslie Evans of the Federation of Calgary Communities, which works with the city's community associations by providing training and workshops for members, said it's up to the memberships to keep their boards — and their finances — in check.

"If there's proper controls in place, you mitigate the risk of having such a large loss," said Evans.

"It's really about trying to get people to be aware of where the potential holes might be."

The WHCA is exploring options to recoup the losses.

News on the Move

What's this barcode for?
Learn how to scan the barcode with the instructions at the top of pg 3

Go Green

With the United Nations' Framework Convention on Climate Change beginning Monday in Copenhagen, Metro is examining some of the issues and concerns world leaders will be discussing at the event. Metro is also marking the convention by going green itself.

• Police mobilize for Copenhagen protesters page 12.
• Why the Copenhagen summit is a big deal, page 16.
• Make a difference abroad with eco-tourism, page 35.

On the web

Visit metronews.ca for news updates

Flames Downed in desert

ROSS D. FRANKLIN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Calgary Flame Miikka Kiprusoff makes a save on a shot by Phoenix Coyote Martin Hanzal in the first period of an NHL hockey game Thursday in Glendale, Ariz. The Coyotes beat the Flames 2-1. More coverage, page 20.

Anti-gay letter not hate crime, judge rules

COURT A Court of Queen's Bench judge has ruled an anti-gay letter written by a former Alberta pastor in 2002 was not a hate crime and is allowed under freedom of speech.

Justice E.C. Wilson overturned a 2008 ruling by the Alberta Human Rights Commission that the letter by Stephen Boissoin that was published in the Red Deer Advocate broke provincial law.

The commission had ordered Boissoin to refrain from making disparaging remarks about homosexuals and pay the complainant, former Red Deer high school teacher Darren Lund, $5,000 in damages.

Neither order can now be enforced, as Wilson declared them "unlawful or unconstitutional."

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Local

Lots of snow expected

Environment Canada issued a winter storm warning for Calgary and area as an arctic cold front will sweep all of southern Alberta bringing snow and strong winds causing blowing snow. About 20 to 30 centimetres of snow can be expected by midnight Friday and there will be reduced visibility, according to the weather agency. METRO CALGARY

METRO INTERNATIONAL NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR 2009 Festival of Media Awards

News in brief

RIGHTS Citing lingering issues related to racism and human rights, and worried Calgary's youth are vulnerable to the issues and discrimination, Immigrant Services Calgary announced yesterday the Race for Rights Conference, Dec. 5 at the Kanahoff Centre. Teens between 14 and 18 will have the opportunity to discuss these issues in an open forum. For more information contact 403-705-3440. METRO CALGARY

Calgary tweets

- @llyreo Reusable shopping bags seem to be everywhere. Seeing them makes Calgary a little merrier. Great way to go green! #YYC
- @staceyhatcher Winter storm warnings/blizzard warnings for Province/Calgary....20cm of snow coming, expected to start @ midnight. Drive safely.

metronews.ca
What's online today.

Video Harper earns a rare public chiding from China for taking too long to visit at metronews.ca/canada

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A win-win situation

Local real estate market ready to rebound, report says

KRISTA SYLVESTER
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ROBIN KUNISKI/FOR METRO CALGARY

According to a new real estate report, Calgary house prices should jump by five per cent in 2010, recouping some of the value lost during the recession.

It's good news for realtors, it's good news for sellers and it's good news for buyers.

The average sale price of existing Calgary homes are expected to rise five per cent in next year — after falling an estimated five per cent in 2009 — according to a Re/Max report released Thursday.

"It's good news because prices are going back up to where they were a year ago and we're in a much more stable and balanced market," Re/Max Calgary spokesperson and realtor Lowell Martens said.

Martens pointed out that before the recession 1,000 to 1,400 houses would sell each month, but that number dropped to 600 when times were tough.

Housing Market Outlook for 2010 states the MLS sale price this year for Calgary is estimated to be $385,000, but it is forecast to rise to $403,000 next year.

"I think this will especially encourage first-buyers and single females to invest in homes now that things are looking more stable," he added.

Homeowner Kathleen Anne said the news puts her in better spirits. When she was trying to sell her home this year the value dropped significantly.

"That means the value will go back up to where it was when I bought it. It doesn't mean it will go five per cent higher, but that's a step in the right direction," she said.

Re/Max estimates sales will reach 26,000 units this year for a 12 per cent gain.

Calgary Transit adds 40 new buses to its fleet

KRISTA SYLVESTER
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"It's great for us, we are very excited to add these to our fleet."
Theresa Keddy, transit spokesperson

Calgary Transit riders will receive a late Christmas present next year as up to 40 new buses have been ordered.

And they aren't just regular buses, but Nova LFS buses that will feature better traction control, lower maintenance and better fuel efficiency, transit spokesperson Theresa Keddy said.

"It's great for us, we are very excited to add these to our fleet as well as replace some of our older, less efficient buses," she said, adding these new buses are more environmentally friendly than some of the older versions.

"We couldn't necessarily get rid of some of the older buses, but they were very limited in their uses so this will be really great for us. We expect them in the New Year sometime."

Transit rider Chris Firth would love to see news buses on the roads.

"I know the city already has some newer models, but it would be nice to have more," he said.

Nova Bus released a statement saying they were excited about the new two-year contract with Calgary Transit and hope to see it expanded another three years.

m.metronews.ca

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Learn how to scan the barcode with the instructions at the top of this page

CALGARY OBITUARIES

CalgaryObits.com notes the following deaths in our community:

BARBERIO, Maria (nee Cimino)
BERRIGAN, Claudia Lynne (nee McNeely)
BIG CROW, Rodney R.
BOUCHER, Mary (May) Morrison
COOK, Shaun Robert
DAVIES, Kelvin Hugh
FLAMAN, Madeleine
FRIEZE, Randy Louis
PLOEG, Gary, van der
HARRIS, Elias
HARRISON, Dorothy Opal
JURASSA, Bela Endre (Bill)
KLUUN, Mike
MANNS, Susan Edith (nee Scrase)
MANYWOUNDS, Rena Kim
McCELLAND, Thomas Bruce
McKEE, Margaret Hunter
O MURTAGH, Debra Veronica (nee McAlear)
ORR, Beverley (Bev) Clarence
PEILUCK, Victor
POLLOCK, Mary Hunter (nee Baird)
PRONYSHYN, Donald Andrew
RUNDLE, Evelyn
SCHWAB, Mary Carmel (nee Curtis)
SEMINCHUK, Theodore Paul (Ted)
STEER, R. Yvonne (nee Leveque)
STREULEA, Dumitru
TAYLOR, Fay Marilyn Elizabeth
WOGAN, Elsie May

For full obituaries go to CalgaryObits.com

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MOUNT ROYAL CONTINUING EDUCATION

U of C program set to receive large donation from Nexen

Nexen Inc. president and CEO Marvin Romanow will announce the company's largest-ever support today for a new University of Calgary program centred around energy, the economy and the environment. It is expected to be the second largest donation in U of C history. METRO CALGARY

Opposition sets up anti-Liepert site

HEALTH CARE Albertans commiserating over the Alberta health-care system, and its minister, Ron Liepert, is the purpose of a new website launched by Alberta's official opposition.

"Health Minister Ron Liepert must go, and no one knows that better than the health-care professionals, patients and families who have experienced growing frustration with the health-care system since Liepert took over," reads the introduction on the website www.liepertmustgo.ca.

METRO CALGARY

Calgary in brief

INVESTMENT Alberta scored 8.5 out of 10, topping the Fraser Institute's report released Thursday ranking provinces with the best investment climate. The report indicates that B.C. and Saskatchewan are closing the gap, though ranking 6.0 and 6.6 respectively. "We're seeing a growing dominance by Western Canada in terms of government initiating policies that make the provinces attractive for investment," said Niels Veldhuis, co-author of the report. METRO CALGARY

Runner sets marathon quest

Man to run 5 marathons a week to raise funds for Right to Play

SunnySide

KRISTA SYLVESTER
krista.sylvester@metronews.ca

One year – 250 marathons = five marathons a week.

And that's less than Cochrane's Martin Parnell's first goal of one marathon per day on his quest to raise money for children to play sports.

A self-professed ultra-marathon runner, Parnell, 54, is attempting to run 250 marathons in 2010 and raise $250,000 for the organization Right to Play and he plans to do it starting New Year's Day at 9 a.m.

"I originally wanted to do 365 days and raise $365,000 but my wife sent me to the doctor when I told her," he laughed, adding they decided it wasn't physically possible.

Parnell was initially inspired with the idea five years ago while cycling through 10 countries in four months in Africa.

"I played soccer with kids in Sudan, played ping pong with kids in Kenya — I just saw how happy sports made them and how enthusiastic they were and I wanted to do something."

As part of the marathon process Parnell said he will also be visiting 40 schools — one per week — and run a marathon with the students.

"I'm not even sure if I can accomplish this, but that is part of the attraction," he added.

Visit www.marathonquest250.com.

ROBIN KUNISK/FOR METRO CALGARY

Ultra-marathoner Martin Parnell of Cochrane hopes to leg out 250 marathons in 2010, to raise money for the Right to Play organization.

Marathons
will include

- Calgary Marathon: May 30
- Vancouver Marathon: May 2
- Boston Marathon: April 19

Invasions drug-related, police say

CRIME Two separate home invasions early Thursday morning were targeted and drug-related, according to police.

Robbery Staff Sgt. Grant Miller said both homes were targeted for drugs and the second home is known to police. "When people are involved in a high-risk lifestyle this is something that comes along with it," he said.

Up to four men forced their way into a home located in the 0-100 block of Erinwoods Pl. SE just before 2 a.m., assaulted and restrained the resident and fled with an undisclosed amount of money. The man was sent to hospital with injuries but since released.

The second invasion occurred just a half hour later in the 0-100 block of Applewood Dr. SE where a female was restrained and the two offenders fled with an undisclosed amount of cash. Three occupants were home but not injured during the incident.

KRISTA SYLVESTER/METRO CALGARY

Bank lends health service $220M
Alberta Health Services is borrowing $220 million from the Royal Bank to help cover an overall deficit expected to sit at $1.24 billion by the end of the fiscal year, according to CEO Stephen Duckett. METRO CALGARY

Calgary prof creating Facebook privacy tool

WEB Keeping mom mum on extra curricular activities and avoiding spilling all to your ex on Facebook is one thing, but keeping out stalkers is another, according to a university researcher.

University of Calgary computer science professor Philip Wong said it's important to filter personal information, but keeping out determined snoopers is more difficult than ticking a few boxes under the privacy settings menu.

"With Facebook, you can control the privacy settings — who can see what information. Although that is appealing, it is not foolproof," Fong said.

> **"Users often don't understand how to use the privacy controls ..."**
> Philip Wong, professor

Fong is developing new tools to allow users to visualize their privacy settings by showing what everyone else will see.

"Users often don't understand how to use the privacy controls on social networking sites."

METRO CALGARY

News in brief

LOCKDOWN Police say they have a youth in custody after responding to a suspicious person complaint at a northwest High School on Thursday morning. Police responded to Sir Winston Churchill for reports a youth was armed with a baton and possibly seen with a handgun before leaving in a vehicle. The school was partially locked down during this time.

AWARD City of Calgary Parks was recognized by industry peers for excellence in water and energy conservation by the International Irrigation Association announced in San Antonio this week. The City of Calgary was honoured with the award for outstanding contribution, innovation, commitment, and achievement in the conservation of water and energy. METRO CALGARY

Women's shelter seeks donations

KRISTA SYLVESTER
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Once again, it's the time of year to Adopt-a-Family.

The Calgary Women's Emergency shelter is seeking cash or gift card donations this year, the third time they are seeking monetary over material, according to spokesperson Erin Waite.

"This way the women feel empowered that they are able to make their own decisions and choices and buy what is right for their families needs," Waite said.

While the organization recognizes donors like to give presents as opposed to cash or gift cards, she wants them to know the profound gratitude women feel when given a choice and able to buy for their families.

"I think it would help the donors to know just what an incredible difference they are making in these women's lives and for their families to have a Christmas during what is a stressful time of year."

Waite said the organization hopes to help 130 families and will help clients and those who contacted the shelter for help during the past year.

Each woman and person in their family will receive gift cards for groceries and retail stores to buy what they need and want, Waite added.

Holiday giving

- For more information please visit www.calgarywomensshelter.com.
- The deadline for donations is Dec. 10.

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Man arrested for allegedly stealing passport applications

Authorities say a Canada Post employee was arrested after 75 filled-out passport applications collected by Human Resources Minister Diane Finley's office were allegedly stolen. Gatineau, Que., police say a 28-year-old man from the Gatineau area was arrested Nov. 6. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada

Cabinet looking at Globalive decision

Federal Industry Minister Tony Clement, left, says cabinet could overturn a decision by the CRTC that prevents cellphone company Globalive from launching its service in Canada. Ottawa is reviewing the decision by the federal regulator, which says Globalive wasn't Canadian-owned and controlled, and therefore can't serve the Canadian wireless market. Egyptian telecom company Orascom owns 65 per cent of Globalive, but a minority of its voting shares. THE CANADIAN PRESS

What took so long? China leader asks PM

Harper chided for dragging feet on visiting Asian nation

In a surprisingly undiplomatic rebuke, Prime Minister Stephen Harper was publicly chided at a traditional Chinese welcoming ceremony Thursday for taking too long to visit the country.

The subtle but pointed rebuke came as the prime minister and his Chinese counterpart, Wen Jiabao, sat at a large oval table for talks following a military welcome at the cavernous Great Hall of the People.

With television cameras rolling, Wen noted that he and Harper had yet to meet and that no Canadian prime minister had visited China in five years. He also reminded the prime minister that Chinese media was full of stories about the lack of attention paid to China by his government since being elected in 2006.

"Five years is too long a time ... and that's why there were comments in the media that your visit should have taken place earlier," Wen said.

SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Prime Minister Stephen Harper takes part in a toast with Wen Jiabao, premier of the People's Republic of China, following a signing ceremony at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, China on Thursday.

An hour earlier, President Hu Jintao twice emphasized that this was Harper's first visit at their private meeting. However, the prime minister did not let the comments slip by without a response. He pointed out that it had also been five years since the Chinese leadership had stepped foot in Canada.

Responding to a reporter's question, Harper said he hasn't changed his views, but that "more regular visits would seem to make sense."

The gentle prods seemed to confirm official media assertions, always an indication of the government's thinking, that the relationship had turned icy since Harper's election in 2006.

But while the Chinese government has given every indication of having taken offence over what it perceived as the Harper government's neglect, as well as attacks on China's human rights record, Hu and Wen made clear they are prepared to rebuild the relationship. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Docs examine climate change impact on natives

Go Green

NORTH Elders pull the seal skins taut over the wooden frame, binding the pelts together as they construct a traditional kayak on the shoreline of one of Canada's most northern communities.

The group in Cambridge Bay, Nunavut, sing and eat as they talk about changes they've witnessed over the last several decades that have warmed their distant region and altered their native food sources.

The conversation is the focus of one of two Canadian documentaries being presented this week in Copenhagen along with other videos showcasing the effects of climate change on indigenous populations around the globe.

Pamela Anne Hakongak Gross, a 24-year-old student from Cambridge Bay, spent weeks making the kayak video and hopes it will open people's eyes to the dramatic and subtle changes brought on by a warming world.

"I think people should understand that it really is happening and it's happening in the North more drastically," she said Thursday from Copenhagen, where world leaders meet next week to work on a new climate treaty.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

CLIMATE The uncertainty of U.S. climate-change legislation could force Canada to essentially revert to a discarded plan to fight global warming that the Conservative government first presented almost three years ago, Environment Minister Jim Prentice says. Critics say it is yet another Tory tactic to stall long-promised regulations to limit greenhouse gas emissions on the eve of the global climate change summit in Copenhagen.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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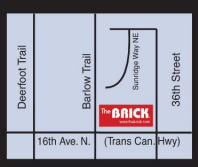

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GM resignation won't impact company: Clement
Minister Tony Clement says he doesn't expect the resignation of General Motors CEO Fritz Henderson to affect the company's Canadian operations. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ottawa set to dole out $5B for housing

Feds, provinces meeting to discuss solutions

Federal and provincial housing ministers beginning two days of meetings Thursday in Ottawa are in the extraordinary position of having so much money they don't know what to do with it.

The federal government is in the midst of handing out an unprecedented $5-billion pot of federal money for social housing needs and construction. Some provinces, especially Ontario, are also earmarking substantial sums towards housing.

For the first time in four years, the federal minister in charge of housing will meet face to face with her provincial counterparts Friday, in the hopes of hashing out the most effective way to spend it all.

Human Resources Minister Diane Finley said she is going into the meeting asking a pair of fundamental questions.

"Are we doing the right thing with it, and are we doing it the right way?" Finley said in an interview.

"There has been no progress in reducing the amount of (social) housing needed in Canada in the past decade," said housing economist Will Dunning. "It has to do with lack of options for affordable housing."

Much of the social housing stock is in bad need of repair and supply is not keeping up with demand. Provinces are at odds with each other over how federal monies should be structured, she said, and not every province has a long-term plan. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Growing need

- The number of struggling families who spend more than 30 per cent of their income on housing has been on the rise over the past decade, despite the economic boom that preceeded the recession. There were about 1.5 million such households at last official count. The recession has probably increased those numbers by up to 300,000, said housing economist Will Dunning.

Aglukkaq blasts Liberal senators

RECALLS Health Minister Leona Aglukkaq says Liberal senators have put the interests of industry ahead of health and safety with changes to a proposed consumer recall bill.

She was responding to a series of Senate amendments to Bill C-6 that would deny government inspectors the power to unilaterally order a recall of consumer items such as toys, baby cribs and food products without first consulting the manufacturer or distributor.

The amendments would also force inspectors to get a search warrant in some circumstances before doing a spot inspection of a business.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quebec City Torch run

JACQUES BOISSINOT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Odette Tremblay celebrates with students and officials as she carries the Vancouver 2010 Olympic torch in Quebec City.

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University sounds alert over weed killer
The weed killer atrazine affects frogs' sexual development, raising questions about its effect on the environment, says the University of Ottawa. METRO NEWS SERVICES

When famine hit Canada's North

Photographer captured iconic shots

THE CANADIAN PRESS/COURTESY OF STEPHEN BULGER GALLERY/COPYRIGHT ESTATE OF RICHARD HARRINGTON

Photographer Richard Harrington's Padlei from 1950.

Sometime in late February 1950, a Canadian photographer pulled a camera out of his parka, focused as best he could in the flickering lamplight inside an igloo, and pressed the shutter.

The resulting image — an Inuit mother, haggard from hunger, fiercely pressing her nose and lips to those of her youngest child — has since become iconic.

But the story behind Richard Harrington's memorable print, and the many others he made around the same time, is less well-known.

And that's what a show now on at the Winnipeg Art Gallery hopes to remedy.

"It's certainly long overdue," said Darlene Wight, a curator behind the exhibit, which runs until March.

Harrington made six trips to the Arctic between 1948 and 1953. He often lived with the Inuit, who depended on the availability of caribou.

Harrington's 1950 trip came in a year the caribou didn't. The result was famine.

As southern Canadians were welcoming a prosperous decade of suburbs and big-finned cars, many of their northern fellow citizens were starving to death.

"(This show is) certainly long overdue."
Darlene Wight, curator

Although Harrington's work is sold and exhibited at Toronto's Stephen Bulger Gallery, the Winnipeg show of 23 images is his first at a public art institution in Canada in more than two decades.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

More torture data please, say opposition MPs

AFGHANISTAN Opposition MPs are calling on would-be whistleblowers to send along more brown envelopes about the Afghan detainee issue.

Liberal MP Ujjal Dosanjh and Bloc Québécois MP Claude Bachand say they would like to see more leaks from bureaucrats unhappy with the government's handling of Afghans captured by the Canadian military.

So far, government documents released have been heavily censored.

The Canadian Press saw unedited government documents that showed the International Red Cross had voiced concerns.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Murray opts out of mayoral race to try for Queen's Park

Ontario's Liberals are anointing former Winnipeg mayor Glen Murray as their candidate to succeed Toronto Centre MPP George Smitherman. The openly-gay Murray had been considering a Toronto mayoral run. And it is openly-gay Smitherman's mayoral ambitions that opened up the prestigious legislature seat. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Harmonized MPs vote in favour of HST

The HST is closer to becoming law in British Columbia and Ontario after the House of Commons voted in favour of the controversial new tax Thursday.

The Conservative government's motion was backed by the Liberals and Bloc Québécois, setting the stage for the formal amendment of the Excise Tax Act.

The government is moving to fast-track the legislation, so it could be voted into law as early as next week.

Only New Democrats voted against the ways-and-means motion, which passed 192-32.

"The Liberals are certainly speaking with one voice on the HST."
Michael Ignatieff

But the fact that only 224 MPs were present to cast a vote in the 308-seat House spoke volumes about how gun-shy some members are of the harmonized sales tax.

Thirty-five Conservatives, including 10 members of cabinet and the travelling prime minister, missed the vote.

The Liberals were short 28 MPs.

However, Leader Michael Ignatieff made a virtue of the fact no Liberal actually voted against tax harmonization despite several threats this week.

"The Liberals are certainly speaking with one voice on the HST," Ignatieff declared.

The provinces are set to start collecting a combined GST and PST next July 1.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quebec reopens debate on assisted suicide

DEATH The Quebec government has agreed to reopen the euthanasia debate.

It announced it will host travelling consultations on the thorny question of assisted suicide.

It will first consult about 20 experts on the subject, and prepare a discussion paper that will help guide the discussions.

The government move comes in response to a request from the opposition Parti Québécois.

Assisted suicide is illegal in Canada. But the government says it's OK to have a difficult conversation.

"I don't think there's any risk in launching a reflection," Health Minister Yves Bolduc said Thursday.

"It's a complex question and opinions are divided, but I think there's a consensus and that is that everyone would want to die with dignity and want their loved ones to die with dignity.

"Now we need to consider ways to make that happen and help improve people's situation."

He spoke after the PQ held a news conference Thursday to demand such a public consultation.

"People are suffering. Doctors want guidelines," said PQ member Bernard Drainville.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

ESPIONAGE Canadians were targeted as "bad guys" in an espionage scare over commemorative coins in 2006-07. "Who knows?" one senior Pentagon official wrote in secret e-mails obtained this week. Canada's "poppy" quarters with a bright red flower were thought to be radio transmitters. The espionage scare turned out to be bogus.

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Woman accused of faking attack by skinheads to appear in court

A Swiss court says a Brazilian woman charged with faking an attack by skinheads will have to appear in court Dec. 16. The Zurich district court said Thursday that Paula Oliveira is accused of deception of justice. Prosecutors have said they are seeking only a fine and not prison time if she is convicted. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

Karzai willing to talk to Taliban

Afghan President Hamid Karzai said Thursday he's willing to talk with Taliban chief Mullah Omarin a bid to bring peace to the country, if the move has the backing of the U.S. and its international partners. Karzai had previously offered to talk with the Taliban leader, but the Bush administration opposed such contacts. U.S. President Barack Obama has said the U.S. must "open the door" to Taliban members who abandon violence. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

University to probe reports of altered climate statistics

NORWICH A British university said Thursday it would investigate whether scientists at its prestigious Climatic Research Unit fudged data on global warming.

Thousands of pieces of correspondence between some of the world's leading climate scientists were stolen from the unit at the University of East Anglia and leaked to the Internet late last month. Skeptics say the emails are proof that scientists have been hiding evidence showing that global warming was not as strong as believed.

Phil Jones, the director of the unit, stepped down Tuesday pending the result of the investigation.

Thursday's announcement was the first acknowledgment by the university that the research itself would be under scrutiny. East Anglia said its review will "determine whether there is any evidence of the manipulation or suppression of data which is at odds with acceptable scientific practice."

The theft and leak of the emails has been politically explosive, even if researchers say their content has no bearing on the principles of climate change.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. response

- U.S. Republicans have grilled government scientists on the matter, with U.S. lawmaker James Sensenbrenner arguing that the emails show a need to re-examine experts' claims that the science on warming is settled.

Riot measures ready for Copenhagen talks

Go Green

In Denmark's biggest security operation since the Second World War, police are mobilizing thousands of officers and — for the first time — a water cannon for next week's UN climate summit.

Copenhagen police demonstrated the German-made 22-ton vehicle to media Thursday, showcasing it mainly as a beefed-up fire truck that could spray water on burning cars or trash bins if protests get out of hand.

But police spokesman Michael Engell said it was possible to add tear gas to the 1.5-million gallon water tank, implying the cannon could also be aimed at rioting protesters.

Police said they have never before used such a vehicle.

At least 100 world leaders will converge on the normally tranquil city in the next two weeks to try to forge a new pact against global warming.

Roughly 15,000 delegates have signed up for the conference — and many more protesters are expected to march through the streets.

"We do not want to be at war with anyone," Copenhagen police operations chief Per Larsen said. "But we will act accordingly if something unacceptable happens. "

Lene Vennits, one of the organizers of a planned demonstration on Dec. 12, criticized the police for deploying a water cannon.

"It sends a signal that the climate summit is about violence," she told The Associated Press.

Anarchist and anti-capitalist groups have suggested they will seek confrontations.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Barack Obama's troop surge plan is similar to the Soviets' disastrous endgame, but can the U.S. actually pull it off? Scan this barcode for the full analysis.

British politician warns of 'climate saboteurs'

GREENHOUSE Britain's climate change secretary urged countries Thursday to be wary of "climate saboteurs" seeking to wreck a global agreement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Ed Miliband, who will attend the climate change talks that begin Monday in Copenhagen, said those challenging the mainstream view on climate change are irresponsible and dangerous.

"I do think that we have to beware of the climate saboteurs, the people who want to say this is somehow in doubt, and want to cast aspersions on the whole process," Miliband said. Some British lawmakers insist the case for man-made climate change is overstated.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Car drags woman to her death
One woman ran over another after an apparent drug dispute and dragged her through Skid Row in Los Angeles Thursday. The victim died at the scene. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

world 13

Irish nuns offer further $204M over child abuse

A major Irish order of Roman Catholic nuns, the Sisters of Mercy, offered Thursday to pay child abuse victims, the government and charities a further $204 million to compensate for decades of abuse in its schools and orphanages.

The compensation offer to the Irish Education Department is by far the largest from 18 orders of Catholic priests, brothers and nuns found guilty of chronic child abuse. They ran scores of residential schools, workhouses and orphanages for generations of Ireland's most deprived children from the mid-19th century to the 1990s.

14,000 More than 14,000 abuse claimants worldwide want payments for their experiences as child residents of Catholic schools and orphanages in Ireland.

The Sisters of Mercy said in a statement it "wholeheartedly regrets the suffering experienced by the children in their care" and hoped this latest offer would show that its nuns were being "faithful to the values of reparation, reconciliation, healing and responsibility."

A nine-year state investigation in May ruled that all the orders permitted and covered up endemic rape, molestation, beatings and mental cruelty in their children's institutions.

The government responded by demanding that the orders pay much more to help cover compensation payments to more than 14,000 abuse claimants worldwide.

The government confirmed receipt of the Sisters of Mercy offer but declined further comment.

Several other Catholic orders have already made smaller offers to the government and victims' support groups following the report.

Its findings of epic levels of cruelty and neglect fanned public fury against the Catholic orders.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AMR NABIL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

This October file photo shows an Egyptian woman walking in Cairo wearing the niqab, which covers everything but the eyes.

Veils fan Egypt's fear of hardline Islam

CONTROVERSY When Egypt's government banned Islamic veils and all-encompassing robes in the dorms of public universities, it cited reports of men wearing the garb to sneak into the women's quarters.

But there was a deeper reason behind the move: an intensifying struggle between the moderate Islam championed by the state and a populace that is turning to a stricter version of the faith, whose most visible hallmark is the niqab — the dress that covers the entire female form.

The debate has grown more heated since Mohammad Tantawi, the top cleric at prestigious Al-Azhar University, banned the niqab in classrooms and dorms on the grounds that it "has nothing to do with Islam," and that it was unnecessary since the college is gender-segregated.

Meanwhile, the Health Ministry and religious authorities forbade nurses and preachers to wear the niqab. The moves have angered many women who say they cover up voluntarily out of religious conviction, and in some cases are penalized for it.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cat cams show what pets do when home alone

LEISURE PURSUITS What do cats do when their owners are away? There was one way to find out — "cat cams." Fifty house cats were given collar cameras that took a photo every 15 minutes. The results put a dent in some human theories about catnapping.

Based on the photos, about 22 per cent of the cats' time was spent looking out of windows, 12 per cent was used to interact with other family pets and eight per cent was spent climbing on chairs or kitty condos. Just six per cent of their hours were spent sleeping.

"What surprised me was how active the cats were."
Jill Villarreal

"What surprised me was how active the cats were. I believed my three cats were sleeping during the day," said Jill Villarreal, an animal behaviour scientist who collected the data.

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Moscow, Vatican promise to improve ties
Pope Benedict XVI and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev reportedly agreed to upgrade diplomatic relations during a meeting at the Vatican. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Somali pirates and weapons seized in raid by Dutch navy

Outlaws were identified in photos taken by merchant ship's crew

The Dutch navy captured 13 Somali pirates and seized a weapons haul off the coast of Oman after the pirates attacked a merchant ship, Dutch authorities reported Thursday.

Armed pirates on speedboats tried to board the Antigua and Barbuda-flagged BBC Togo, but were repelled after firing on the vessel.

Defence ministry spokesman Robin Middel said "it didn't go easily for the pirates" because the BBC Togo had taken precautions such as barring stairwells with barbed wire.

The pirates then fled to a larger fishing boat, 280 kilometres south of the western town of Salalah, where a Dutch frigate captured them Wednesday evening, Middel said.

"A large amount of weapons were discovered on board, among which were AK-47s, rocket-propelled grenades, ammunition, boarding hooks and ladders," the ministry said.

The pirates were arrested and are being held on the HMS Evertsen, Middel added. They are believed to be Somalis.

The Dutch frigate is leading a European Union naval force to protect food shipments to Somalia and combat piracy.

Middel said officials had identified the men captured on the fishing boat as those who had attacked the BBC Togo using photographs taken by the merchant ship's crew.

Those photos could also make it possible to prosecute the pirates. "Most of the time it's difficult to identify pirates, but this time you have pictures and eyewitnesses," he said.

The EU has agreements with Kenya and the Seychelles to turn over captured pirates to them, and the pirates could face prosecution in one of those countries, the Dutch statement added.

Two Tanzanian fishermen said the pirates had held them hostage for months and used their boat as a floating operations base. The Dutch navy returned the fishing boat to the Tanzanians.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. exchange student's murder trial closes

JURY American exchange student Amanda Knox made her final statement to the Italian court trying her for the murder of her British roommate. She said she fears having the "mask of an assassin" placed on her.

Knox addressed the court Thursday before the eight members of the jury go into deliberations. Speaking Italian, her voice breaking as she fought back tears, Knox said she is trying to remain calm even though she is "disappointed, sad and frustrated" over the two years she has spent in jail.

Knox and her former boyfriend, Italian co-defendant Raffaele Sollecito, have been jailed since just after the 2007 slaying of British student Meredith Kercher. Both deny wrongdoing in the incident, which has been closely followed in European media.

Kercher was found dead, her throat slit, in the apartment she shared with Knox in the central Italian town of Perugia. The defendants are alleged to have slain Kercher as part of a drug-fuelled sexual assault.

A fourth person, Ivory Coast citizen Rudy Hermann Guede, has been convicted in the murder and was sentenced to 30 years in prison. He is appealing his conviction.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

VETERAN Retired U.S. Air Force Col. Jack Pitchford, who survived seven years in the notorious prison camp known as the "Hanoi Hilton," has died at 82 of a brain tumour. Pitchford was shot down over North Vietnam in 1965 and taken to Hoa Lo prison, where many prisoners, including U.S. Sen. John McCain, were tortured. Pitchford was freed in 1973. He never fully recovered but never regretted his service, said his brother. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Boy, 17, tried as adult in U.S. murder trial
Prosecution is saying an Indiana boy fantasized of killing before strangling his 10-year-old brother. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. tide is turning

Americans turning away from world: Poll

Americans are turning away from the world, showing a tendency toward isolationism in foreign affairs that has risen to the highest level in four decades, according to a poll released Thursday.

Titled Isolationist Sentiment Surges to Four-Decade High, the poll about America's role in the world was released by The Pew Research Centre, a nonpartisan organization.

Almost half, or 49 per cent of the poll's respondents, told the research centre that the U.S. should "mind its own business" internationally and let other countries get along the best they can on their own. That figure is up from 30 per cent who felt the same way in December 2002.

"Improving human rights and living standards are all down."
Andrew Kohut, president Pew Research Centre

Results of the survey appear to conflict with U.S. President Barack Obama's activist foreign policy, including a newly announced buildup of 30,000 U.S. troops in Afghanistan to fight Taliban and al-Qaida extremists.

Only 32 per cent of respondents favoured increasing U.S. troops in Afghanistan, while 40 per cent favoured decreasing them. And fewer than half, or 46 per cent of those polled said it was somewhat or very likely that Afghanistan would be able to withstand the radicals' threat.

Forty-one per cent of those surveyed said the United States plays a less important and powerful role as a world leader than it did a decade ago, up from 25 per cent who said that just prior to the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, the report found.

Pew Research Center president Andrew Kohut said in an interview that the "very bad economy" appeared most responsible for the growth of isolationist sentiment. He said the public was also "displeased with the two wars we are waging, in Iraq and Afghanistan."

At a news conference Thursday, Kohut added: "Improving human rights and living standards are all down." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Envoy says money for drug war on track

The U.S. ambassador to Mexico, Carlos Pascual, said Thursday that programs to provide more than $1.1 billion in resources to help Mexico, the Dominican Republic and Haiti fight the war on drugs are on track.

The ambassador's comments followed the release Thursday of a government report showing only about $24 million of the aid had been spent by the end of September. Congress appropriated the first $400 million for Mexico as part of the Merida Initiative in June 2008.

Pascual said expenditures had increased several times since the report was completed and noted that five new helicopters would be delivered to Mexico in a matter of weeks.

"The snapshot showed where we were, and the snapshot is very different today. It's going to be radically different in two weeks," he said. "In any program there is a necessary lead time for obtaining the resources, executing the contracts, producing the necessary equipment, training the people on their use, that's what we've been doing," he said.

Merida Initiative
- $400 million appropriated by U.S. congress to Mexico in 2008 for equipment and training.
- Only $24 million spent by September 2009.

The report by the Government Accountability Office blamed bureaucracy, conditions placed on the funds by Congress, and preparations in recipient countries for slow implementation of the $1.4 billion Merida Initiative.

Mexico's Department of Foreign Relations North America Desk said in a statement to The Associated Press that "the government of Mexico is prepared, logistically and administratively, to receive that assistance and use it to strengthen our national strategy against international organized crime." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Questions over dead woman's age

LOUISVILLE Experts are planning to investigate whether a woman who recently died in Louisville, Ky., lived for 122 years, as her relatives claim.

The Courier-Journal newspaper reports that Shukhrat Aliyeva died Tuesday. If verified, she would join Frenchwoman Jeanne Calment, who died in 1997, as the oldest person whose age was certified by official documents.

Some experts are skeptical though. Stephen Coles, a University of California, Los Angeles researcher, who has done autopsies on some of the world's oldest people, says his group will investigate Aliyeva's age.

Coles, also a founder of the Los Angeles-based Gerontology Research Group, said it's suspicious partly because her birth date is listed in her state identification as Jan. 1, 1887. He said that was a month and day often used by people unsure of their birth.

Family members say Aliyeva grew up in a mountain village in Georgia, in eastern Europe, where birth certificates were not issued.

"She was a strong woman," said Gulnara Gassanova, a relative.

"She had grandchildren with grandchildren." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

CANADA At least one species seems to love climate change. American researchers have found that aspens, the main trees in 17 million hectares of Canadian forest, are growing significantly faster with more carbon dioxide in the air. "We found a surprisingly strong increase in growth in response to a rather small increase in CO_2," said Richard Lindroth, an ecologist at the University of Wisconsin.Lindroth found that depending on how much moisture they receive, aspens are growing 50 per cent faster. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Comment

Bridges bring troubled waters

UrbanCompass

Janice Paskey

metronews.ca/paskey

It's the tale of two bridges. Both are to span Calgary's Bow River, both to be built with taxpayer money.

But each speaks a different language.

The first speaks a language of the monarchy.

It's born into the divine rights of kings. Financed by we paupers (the Calgary ratepayers.) The architect selected in secret by some shrouded person, the coronation announced from city hall on high.

The king architect is allowed to hand-pick his local foot soldier, and chooses Stantec over Delcan. Stantec earns $750,000 from the paupers because the king remains in Spain.

The footbridge price climbs to $24.5 million. Graham Infrastructure wins the construction bid, as it's the only one that says it can do the job for $18 million (Plus GST. Did they not tell you about the GST?) We'll see.

The second bridge speaks a postmodern language: Part papacy, part Canadian Idol.

Known as St. Patrick's Crossing, it gives credence to social justice.

This time, it's through a design competition managed by Calgary Municipal Lands Corporation.

The second bridge will run to St. Patrick's Island in the downtown's so-called East Village.

"We must await the white smoke from the CMLC as the high priests choose the design winner."

The church's subjects (that's us) are paying a $173-million levy for the East Village Revitalization. (Rick McIver and Diane Colley-Urquhart opposed).

Noting the Calatrava outcry, the CMLC rightly holds a design competition and posts all entries on its website. We subjects are invited to comment.

Stantec once again nabs the contract to review all the design entrants.

Under the steely shield of FOIP, the taxpayers have no way of knowing how Stantec was selected or paid.

Three designs remain and there will be open houses. Then the decision-making retreats.

We must await the white smoke from the CMLC as the high priests choose the design winner.

These clerics include the CMLC advisory committee (only one woman there), its management team and CMLC board.

Across the city, citizens will be told the city doesn't have money for this, or that.

Fellow subject, the city always has money. ($24-million bridges, $3-million Shouldice field artificial turf, race track subsidies…)

Got a cause? You need to find the secret (and a well-sheltered) person at city hall who championed architect Santiago Calatrava. Get them onside. Choose your sole source contractor.

Tell your public no one else will do. It also helps if you have the political savvy of Stantec.

Janice Paskey teaches at Mount Royal University and is a volunteer with Westwood Hockey.

Views

Why Copenhagen summit is a big deal

Martin Atkin

WWF International

You're going to be hearing and reading a lot about Copenhagen in the next couple weeks. Every day you open your newspaper or switch on the television news it's going to be up there in the main headlines. So why is Copenhagen such a big deal?

It's a big deal because it affects all of us. Climate change isn't just something that happens to other people. Those melting glaciers and raging forest fires may seem a long way from where you're sitting reading this on a bus or train on the way to work, but they're happening on somebody's doorstep. Maybe you're lucky enough not to be directly affected — yet. But you will be.

Over the next two weeks, Metro will be featuring some of the creatures around the world already suffering because of global warming. Some of them may be familiar — polar bears struggling on the melting Arctic sea ice, or delicate coral reefs killed off by warmer oceans. But there's one species that stands to lose more than most if climate change isn't brought under control — humans.

"But there's one species that stands to lose more than most if climate change isn't brought under control — humans."

We're already seeing the terrible consequences of runaway global warming. Many thousands of climate refugees forced to flee their low-lying coastal homes from India to the Pacific islands. Bush fires causing millions of dollars of damage every year from Australia to California. Hurricanes of increasing severity and frequency battering cities from New Orleans to Taiwan.

Climate change could wreck the global economy. It destabilizes food, water and energy supplies, and makes it more difficult for us to pull out of recession. That's a direct threat to our jobs, homes and security. And all the time the cost of doing nothing is going up — a cost that has to be borne by all of us.

That's why Copenhagen matters to us all. The great and the good meeting over the next fortnight have the power to lead us into a clean, sustainable future or into ever-more catastrophic global warming. Big deal? You bet it is!

Martin Atkin is the director of media relations for World Wildlife Fund International.

MICHAEL DE ADDER

Tell us your views by email to calgaryletters@metronews.ca or comment on metronews.ca or on Twitter @metrocalgary

Letters must include sender's full name, address and phone number – street name and phone numbers will NOT be published. We reserve the right to edit letters.

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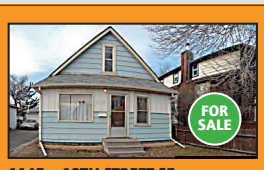

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Teck Resources slapped with large fine

Teck Resources has been fined $115,000 after a chemical spill in the Columbia River in southeast B.C. in May 2008. It's the largest fine in B.C. history for a single count under the province's environmental management act, according to Environment Minister Barry Penner. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Business

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EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Jazz Air reaches tentative contract

DEAL Jazz Air LP said Thursday it has reached a new tentative labour contract with the union representing its customer service and aircraft services employees, after two previous deals were voted down by union.

Details of the agreement were not immediately available.

The revised agreement, reached after talks with a federal conciliations officer, must be voted on by about 950 union members. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Business in brief

HOUSING Residential real estate sales should recover in almost all major Canadian cities by the end of 2009, while average prices should post new records in an improved economic climate, says a new report. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Comcast plans to buy NBC

Comcast Corp. announced Thursday it plans to buy a majority stake in NBC Universal for $13.75 billion US, giving America's largest cable TV operator control of the Peacock network, an array of cable channels and a major movie studio.

MARK LENNIHAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Movies and TV shows, such as Jay Leno seen in this promotional NBC poster in New York, could come more quickly to cable.

Although the deal could mean that movies could reach cable more quickly after showing in theatres, and that TV shows could appear faster on cellphones and other devices, it was already raising concerns that Comcast would wield too much power over entertainment.

If the deal clears regulatory and other hurdles, Comcast would rival The Walt Disney Co. — which Comcast CEO Brian Roberts already tried to buy.

Comcast, which already serves a quarter of all U.S. households that pay for TV, would gain control of the NBC broadcast network, the Spanish-language Telemundo and about two dozen cable channels, including USA, Syfy and The Weather Channel.

It also would have regional sports networks, Universal Pictures and theme parks.

In agreeing to buy 51 per cent of NBC Universal from General Electric Co., which has controlled NBC since 1986, Comcast hopes to succeed in marrying distribution and content in a way Time Warner Inc. could not.

AOL and Time Warner are undoing their ill-fated marriage Dec. 9.

Comcast pledged that NBC Universal shows that now cost money over its cable video-on-demand service would be free for three years.

But consumer advocates worry about the deal, saying people could end up paying more for TV.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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SCANLIFE

Gold prices lead an upswing after a roller-coaster year for the Canadian mining industry. Scan this barcode for the full story.

New system expected to impact WestJet's Q4

REVENUE WestJet Airlines Ltd. expects the ongoing transition to a new reservation system will have a negative impact on its fourth-quarter passenger revenue, which is expected to be at least 11 per cent below last year.

The Calgary-based airline made the statement Thursday while releasing November traffic results, which showed a load factor down slightly from record highs last year as growth in capacity outpaced growth in traffic. Launched in October, the new reservation system had affected the WestJet's levels of service with implementation issues dragging on longer than expected. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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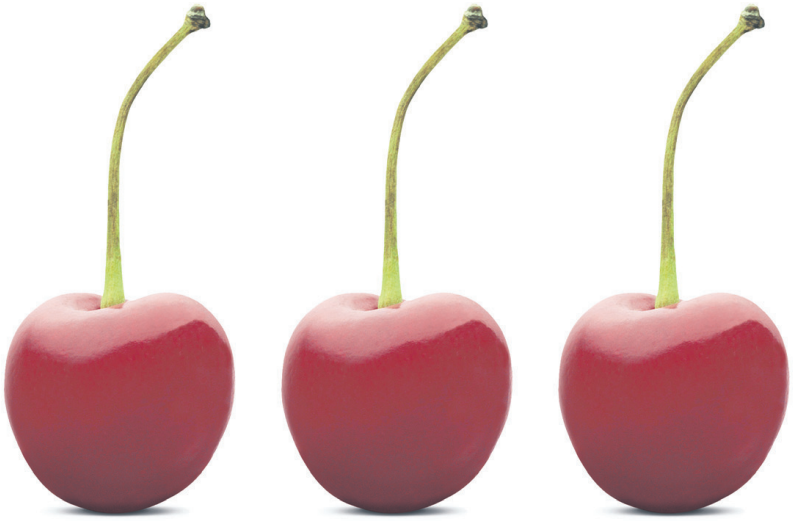

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Shanahan takes job with NHL

Brendan Shanahan didn't stay retired for long. The three-time Stanley Cup champion was named the NHL's vice-president of hockey and business development Thursday, less than three weeks after ending his 22-year playing career. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sports

Mauresmo retiring

Two-time Grand Slam champion Amelie Mauresmo retired from tennis Thursday, saying she no longer had a burning desire for competition. The 30-year-old Frenchwoman, a former top-ranked player who finished the season at No. 21, said she doesn't have the will to keep playing at the highest level. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EDITOR: DON.MCHOULL@METRONEWS.CA

Calgary skier accepts setback

Broken leg cost John Kucera chance at winning gold in Vancouver

It was either in the first or second cartwheel that he felt his leg snap.

John Kucera can't remember for sure.

As he slid to a stop in the snow, the young downhill skier felt agony, disappointment, frustration, and then acceptance.

Kucera didn't need to be a doctor to know his racing season was over and any chance of winning a medal at February's Winter Olympics had been snatched away. His only option was to begin thinking about next year and the next Games.

"It's a bit of a bummer," Kucera said Thursday during a telephone conference call. "Right when I crashed, and I was sliding on the hill and realized my leg was broken, I pretty much came to peace with it right there.

"Skiing is a funny sport. It's a dangerous sport and injuries are a reality. Once I knew I was out for the season, I'm not dwelling on it any more. I'm just trying to look forward to letting this heal up properly and getting back to work and making my comeback."

Kucera, 25, was travelling at around 100 kilometres an hour when he caught an edge in some soft snow and was sent tumbling into a safety net during Sunday's opening super-giant slalom race of the World Cup season at Lake Louise, Alta.

He fractured the tibia and fibula in his left leg. One of the broken bones pierced his calf.

The reigning world downhill champion was taken off the hill by helicopter and underwent surgery that evening in Banff, Alta.

Dr. Christopher Irving, Alpine Canada's medical director, said besides the compound fracture, Kucera suffered "significant soft tissue injury."

A rod was inserted through the tibia.

"We expect a really good recovery for John and are very confident he is not going to have any significant, long-term problems as a result," Irving said. "It will be a lot of work in the rehabilitation."

Kucera understands the task ahead of him.

"It will be a tough chapter in my career but I think it will be one where I am going to learn a lot of lessons and build a lot of character," he said, speaking from his hospital bed.

The Calgary resident was considered a medal threat in both the downhill and super-G at the Games. He also was a darkhorse in the giant slalom.

Instead of wasting energy thinking about what might have been, Kucera plans to build his strength for next season and the 2014 Olympics.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

John Kucera

Sports in brief

WOODS A lawyer for a New York woman who has denied having an affair with Tiger Woods cancelled a news conference that had been scheduled for Thursday in Los Angeles. Lawyer Gloria Allred's office said in a statement that the news conference was cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances.

NHL Looking to the future, the surging Chicago Blackhawks signed three of their top players — Jonathan Toews, Patrick Kane and Duncan Keith — to lucrative contract extensions Thursday. Kane and Toews, both 21, signed five-year deals worth $31.5 million US each. Keith, a defenceman, got a 13-year contract worth $72 million.

NHL The Toronto Maple Leafs traded AHL forward Jiri Tlusty to the Carolina Hurricanes for prospect Philippe Paradis on Thursday. The deal between the NHL's bottom two teams is an exchange of first-round draft picks: Tlusty was taken 13th overall in 2006 while Paradis was picked 27th last June.

BASEBALL Placido Polanco returned to the Philadelphia Phillies Thursday, agreeing to an $18-million US, three-year contract. The 34-year-old free agent won Gold Gloves at second base for the Detroit Tigers in 2007 and this year but will shift to third base

NFL Colts defensive end Dwight Freeney returned to practice Thursday and cornerback Kelvin Hayden worked out for the second straight day, meaning both could play Sunday against Tennessee. Freeney missed last week's game with an abdominal injury. Hayden has missed four straight games with a knee injury.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ROSS FRANKLIN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Calgary Flames goaltender Miikka Kiprusoff looks away as the Phoenix Coyotes celebrate a goal scored by Petr Prucha on Thursday in Glendale, Ariz. The Coyotes won 2-1.

Flames fall to Coyotes

NHL

Flames 1 Coyotes 2

AT

Taylor Pyatt scored with 3:29 remaining to lift the Phoenix Coyotes past the Calgary Flames 2-1 on Thursday night.

Petr Prucha also scored for the Coyotes, who won their third straight.

David Moss had the lone goal for the Flames, who lost on the road in regulation for the first time since a 2-1 defeat at Columbus on Oct. 13.

Calgary were 8-0-2 away from Alberta since then.

Pyatt took a pass from Daniel Winnick and skated down the right side before stopping short in the centre of the right circle.

He took one stride left before beating goalie Miikka Kiprusoff with a wrist shot.

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Extension for Bengals
The Cincinnati Bengals got a 24-hour extension to sell out their game against Detroit on Sunday and avoid a local television blackout. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2010 dreams hinge on making the team

With exactly 10 weeks to go until the home Olympics, many of Canada's athletes haven't booked their tickets to Vancouver and Whistler.

To be considered medal contenders, they have to make the team.

All over the world, trials by fire are occurring with glory hanging in the balance. Past performance means little and there's always disaster lurking to derail any Olympic dream. Just ask John Kucera, the reigning world downhill ski champion, who broke his leg in a crash at Lake Louise and thus ended his hopes of a gold medal.

"It's what we sign up for," shrugged Francois Bourque, Kucera's teammate who had witnessed the fall. Bourque missed last season due to injury. In 2006 at the Torino Games he finished a narrow fourth in the giant slalom. This time he's guaranteed nothing.

In curling the finest teams in the land are assembling in Edmonton to conduct a super tournament from which only two will emerge. The fact that Kevin Martin and Jennifer Jones have dominated the sport for the last four years is irrelevant. Becoming the Canadian representative in Vancouver will be the toughest task of all.

At the World Cup of speedskating in Calgary the powerhouse nations will dash in an Olympic preview. Canada has many stars in the mix. But in the men's 500M sprints the most successful racer of all-time, Jeremy Wotherspoon, hasn't qualified. He'll be hard pressed to make amends for his stumble at the start line in Salt Lake City and it will have to be at another distance.

In Europe Canadian bobsleigh athletes like Heather Moyse of PEI still don't know if they've got a seat in the sled — this in spite of the fact that Moyse missed a podium spot in Torino as the brakeman for Helen Upperton by mere hundredths of a second.

Moyse told a community fundraiser in Charlottetown recently that as an aspiring team member she takes nothing for granted. "People call me an Olympian," she explained. "I say I'm just like everyone else. I'm just somebody's neighbour with a job to do."

Indeed, for Moyse and all the others the most difficult mission may be making the Olympic cut in the first place.

Scott Russell is the Host of CBC Sports Weekend seen Saturday afternoons. He has covered nine Olympic games and numerous world championships.

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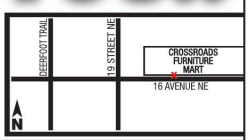

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Movies&Entertainment

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Movies

Gimme a kiss!

Pg 24

Disney's first-ever African American princess hit screens across the country this weekend with The Princess and the Frog.

Movies Pg 24

Brothers is quiet, earnest and never goes the easy route.

Music Pg 31

Ex-Hole and Smashing Pumkins bassist is back.

Television Pg 34

Toronto actress leads the cast in new Alice adventure.

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At a glance
Brothers ●●●, Everybody's Fine ●●●, AntiChrist ●●●½

Movies

MOVIES EDITOR: KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

Colourful tale

Disney brings first African-American princess

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News

Lending her voice to Disney's first African-American princess is pretty huge for an actress, and Anika Noni Rose is all too aware of it.

"The first time I saw her in colour, I couldn't even breathe. I just started to cry," she says, hand instinctively going to her throat.

"Even talking about now, I'm such a wuss."

To be fair, it really is a big deal. Tiana, the heroine at the center of The Princess and the Frog, joins a much-celebrated class of characters including Cinderella, Snow White and Belle from Beauty and The Beast.

And while Disney has featured other races with Jasmine from Aladdin or Mulan — and even other another species in The Little Mermaid — until now there hasn't been a black face in that lineup.

But as a child watching Disney films, Rose doesn't necessarily remember noticing the absence of lead characters of colour.

"I didn't necessarily feel deprived. I was just watching the movies and loving them," she says. "I do remember wondering to myself if there would ever be a Chocolate Brown after seeing Snow White.

"It will mean different things to different people," Rose says of the impact Tiana will have.

"For my nephew, it will be the norm. He will think nothing of it. It will be his first princess, period. For my mother, it'll be something she's been waiting for — and her child, no less. For my grandmother, it will be something she never thought would've happened."

As for Rose herself, she says she's just thrilled to be involved in one of Disney's lavish animated musicals.

The Princess and The Frog hits theatres next week

"This is something that I always dreamed of doing," she says. "I didn't dream of being a princess. I could've been a dandelion and I would've been really happy."

An admitted "Disney geek," Rose was just as excited the film's return to traditional hand-drawn animation as she was about its cultural significance. "When you look at the bayou, you can see the humidity in the air," she says.

"It is hazy and warm and moist and thick with it. And I that's something that CGI hasn't quite managed to capture."

And while the first African-American Disney princess is sure to be viewed as a role model of sorts, Rose is more than happy to dodge that label herself — one of the benefits of voicing an animated character.

"If they want to see Tiana as a role model, I think that's brilliant because her story is finite," Rose explains.

"She's not going to turn the corner and fall out and have 20 children. It's not going to be the type of situation."

Movie feature

On the web

- For movie photos, trailers and screen times — or to buy tickets — visit metronews.ca/movies.

Anika Noni Rose lends her voice to Disney's first ever African-American princess in The Princess and The Frog, a return to the studio's days of traditional, hand-drawn animation.

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metro

Brothers understated drama

Brothers

Director: Jim Sheridan
Stars: Tobey Maguire, Jake Gyllenhaal, Natalie Portman
Classification: 14A
Rating: ●●●

PHIL BROWN
for Metro Canada

REVIEW Brothers should be an overly sentimental drama that gratingly begs for Oscar recognition. After all, it is a story of forbidden love and post-traumatic stress disorder, populated by a cast of young Hollywood stars. The film should have a "movie of the week" quality with glossy production values.

But surprisingly Brothers is a very quiet and earnest little film that never goes the easy route emotionally. It might not be a masterpiece, but director Jim Sheridan has turned in a better movie than Brothers had any right to be.

Natalie Portman and Tobey Maguire star in Brothers.

The film stars Tobey Maguire and Jake Gyllenhaal as (you guessed it!) two very different brothers. Maguire appears as an honoured army captain and Gyllenhaal plays his fresh out of prison ne'er do well brother.

When Maguire is captured in Afghanistan, his family is told he's dead and Gyllenhaal steps in to take care of his shattered family, befriending his daughters and possibly getting a little too close to his wife (Natalie Portman).

Maguire eventually returns a changed man after his horrific experience and his family can hardly recognize him. This path has been tread before, but Jim Sheridan makes it work by perfectly casting his actors against type to defy expectations, while also keeping the family drama slow and simmering.

There are few Oscar-clip ready emotional outbursts, but when they do appear the scenes at least feel organic to the piece.

Brothers is a remake of the Danish drama Brødre and Sheridan manages to Americanize the story with minimal Hollywood gloss.

Maguire is shockingly good as a shell shocked POW and Gyllenhaal is surprisingly believable as a damaged ex-con. Sheridan is clearly playing with their movie star images here and the experiment works quite well.

- For a trailer of Brothers, photos, and screen times — or to buy tickets — visit metronews.ca/movies.

Movies

MOVIES EDITOR: KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

Matt Dillon gets to play both sides of the law in Armored.

Dillon's new flick a dream come true

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

Matt Dillon has worked with an array of accomplished directors that includes everyone from Francis Ford Coppola to Gus Van Sant to Cameron Crowe. But there's one filmmaker that I bet you'd never have guessed might be on the actor's dream list: Nimród Antal.

Nimród who?

"He's a force — that's the first thing that comes to mind," said Dillon recently of the little-known Hungarian who helmed the 2003 subway-themed festival hit Kontroll. "I thought that Kontroll was just an unbelievable, exuberant film really. It's just inspired and so I was predisposed to work with him."

Armored opens in theatres today

Now with Armored hitting theatres today, audiences will get to witness the collaboration between Dillon and the director he aspired to work with. While its impossible to predict the partnership will pay off, the thriller does show promise as Dillon plays the chief of an armoured car crew that plans an elaborate caper to rob the very treasure he's supposed to be guarding.

"It's funny because it seems like an amped up thing — these guys set out to pull off this $42 million dollar heist and you might think, 'oh, that's a little far-fetched' but it's really not," insisted Dillon. "While we were in pre-production, the director came up to me and said, 'hey, check out this (newspaper) article' and it was an article in which there had just been an inside job armored car heist … so there is a kind of basis in reality."

Once Dillon realized one of the criminals had even been named Dylan (close call!), the coincidence only assured the cast their film was on the right track.

Another indication they were in good territory — the casting of Dillon as a peace officer. After all, although the 45-year-old actor is often typecast in that role, it certainly paid off with an Oscar nomination in Paul Haggis' 2004 drama Crash.

"I'm either playing a cop or I'm on the other side of the law," laughed Dillon, suggesting that he at least gets to play both in Armored.

"I think that's the way it goes with action movies — you've always got to raise the stakes a little bit and that's what's going on here."

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Anderson working on The Master
There Will Be Blood director Paul Thomas Anderson is settling on his next project. The new movie, which has the rough working title of The Master, stars Philip Seymour Hoffman as a charismatic man who dreams up an idea for a faith-based organization. EMPIREONLINE.COM

Reel Time

A CLASSIC; EXCELLENT; GOOD; FAIR; POOR

For Efron, life's a stage

Teen fave tries meatier role in Me and Orson Welles

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News

Movie feature

Zac Efron can't seem to shake his High School Musical pedigree — but he's trying.

His first feature outside the franchise, last spring's delightful 17 Again, opened with the young star on the basketball court, brow furrowed just like his Disney trilogy counterpart. And in his latest, Me and Orson Welles, Efron — still paying a high-schooler — wheedles his way into Orson Welles' 1937 production of Julius Caesar by showing off his singing chops.

Luckily, that's about where the similarities end. Efron's character in his new film is set for a much more mature coming-of-age experience, thrusting him into a love triangle with Welles (Christian McKay) and a comely older woman (Claire Danes). But it was the intense backstage world of theater that attracted Efron.

"Essentially what my character does in the movie is everything I did in five years, only he did it in one week and was much cooler," Efron explains. "When you're doing a play, in my experience, there's so much going on and there's so much pressure and such teamwork and such camaraderie, you almost gain this whole other family," he says.

"You can become very wrapped up in your emotions in that. I think I fell in love during every play I did from 12 to 17."

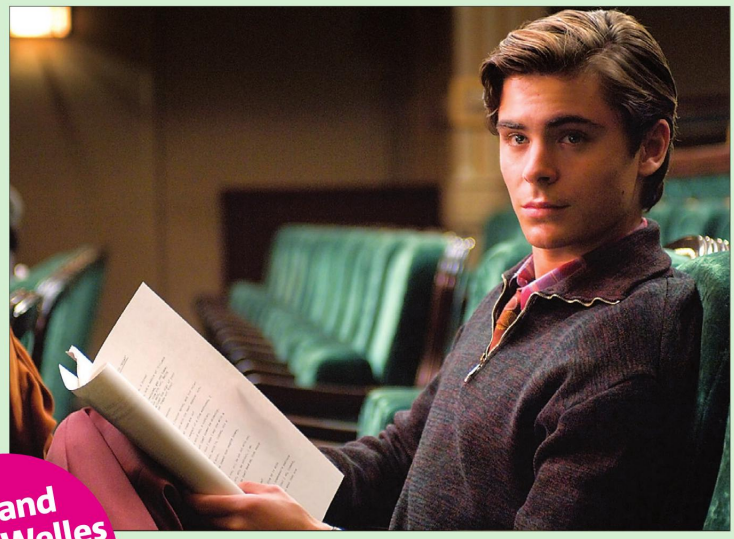
Linklater, who had only seen Efron in Hairspray, admits that he didn't initially think the young actor would work for the part.

"Frankly, my first impression was that he's almost too good looking," Linklater says. "But in my experience, you can't judge the full range of an actor based on what you've seen them in, so we set up a meeting. A minute or two into the conversation, I knew he would be perfect."

The show-within-a-show aspect of Me and Orson Welles offered Efron the opportunity to expand his experience with Shakespeare, something he didn't necessarily think he needed to do going into it, he admits.

"I found out I didn't know the first thing about Shakespeare," he says.

"I thought I was coming to the table with a decent amount of knowledge — perhaps someone would even ask me a question or two. But I quickly found out that was not the case and I had a lot to learn."



Heartthrob Zac Efron shows off his acting chops in Me and Orson Welles.

Me and Orson Welles opens next Friday

"Frankly, my first impression was that he's almost too good looking. But in my experience, you can't judge the full range of an actor based on what you've seen them in."
Richard Linklater

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Peter Howell, Toronto Star
"THIS YEAR'S 'SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE'."
Brian D. Johnson, Maclean's
"★★★★" Katherine Monk, Canwest Media
"★★★" (out of four) Liam Lacey, Globe and Mail
"★★★★ Powerful and rich." Susan G. Cole, Now Magazine
"★★★★ A great American film." Roger Ebert, Chicago Sun-Times
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Pete Hammond, BOXOFFICE MAGAZINE

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Reel Time

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

Robert DeNiro and Drew Barrymore play father and daughter in Everybody's Fine.

DeNiro in Fine form

Everybody's **Fine**

Director: Kirk Jones
Stars: Robert DeNiro, Drew Barrymore
Classification: PG
Rating: ●●●

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

Just as every holiday season brings a flurry of kid-friendly fare to the box office, so too is it often associated with heart-tugging dramas for the more adult patrons. Enter Everybody's Fine.

In this slow-paced Kirk Jones (Nanny McPhee) dramedy, Robert DeNiro plays Frank, a recent retiree whose sedate life is punctuated by the fact the outgoing message on his antiquated answering machine is still his late wife's voice.

When his children (played by Drew Barrymore, Sam Rockwell and Kate Beckinsale) all skip out on a family get-together, Frank decides to travel cross-country to surprise them each in their respective cities.

What we get is a sexagenarian road trip of discovery, or lack there of, since Frank finds his kids each hiding secrets — especially the worrying absence of their sibling, David.

From that description, Everybody's Fine (which is a remake of a 1990 Italian hit) may sound a bit mysterious — and perhaps Jones intended it to be. However, by the time David's reveal occurs, anticipation has dwindled and the plot-point seems extraneous.

Besides, the film's true intent is already established. By playing down blatant sentimentality and casting DeNiro (who's simply arresting steeped in his own misconceptions about his grown children and his relationship to them), the movie satisfyingly explores the regret and secrets that exist in every family.

Mainly though, this film will be remembered for the restrained performance of DeNiro who, after last year's bust Righteous Kill, looks like he's dramatically returned to form. That measure notwithstanding, the low-key dramedy of Everybody's Fine will be nothing more than just fine to most.

Antichrist pushes limits

Antichrist

Director: Lars Von Trier
Stars: Willem Dafoe, Charlotte Gainsbourg
Classification: STC
Rating: ●●●½

PHIL BROWN
for Metro Canada

Cinema's leading provocateur Lars Von Trier returns with Antichrist, a film in which the director seems to be daring his audience to run out of the theatre.

The movie is alienating in almost every conceivable way. It contains some of the most graphic and unsettling images ever captured on film, while also featuring a series of oblique metaphors and symbols that are hard to grasp as well as long winded dialogue scenes that are nearly impossible to follow.

It will be despised by many, but shouldn't be ignored. As challenging as Antichrist might be, it's clearly the work of a major artist pushing the boundaries of film form, content, and good taste.

Willem Dafoe and Charlotte Gainsbourg star as an unnamed couple (billed only as "he" and "she" in the credits) whose child dies due to their negligence. Crushed by the event, the pair move to a cabin in the woods to deal with their martial woes.

Dafoe's psychiatrist attempts to help his wife deal with her problems before the situation gradually turns nasty. Antichrist is a complex film juggling a variety of issues and themes. It is at once an attack on psychiatry, a comment on the accusations of misogyny frequently thrown at Von Trier, an art house horror movie, and more.

One thing the movie isn't is fun, but the tough experience does hold rewards for audiences willing to put themselves through it.

Von Trier has publicly stated that Antichrist was made during a bout of depression and that translates to the screen.

The filmmaker is clearly attacking institutions and ideas that bother him, unloading disturbing images from the deepest recesses of his brain, and deliberately punishing his audience in all the ways that a director can.

Fans of the filmmaker's bleak worldview will find a great deal of powerful material in the movie and all audiences should appreciate the gorgeous cinematography, impressive acting, and directorial skill on display.

Antichrist will be dismissed by some, analyzed for days by others, and forgotten by no one. Just don't bring the kids. They don't need that.

Piper on film

Persistent Entertainment is planning on turning comic The Piper into a film, according to the Hollywood Reporter. The movie will concern a bullied high school band student who channels the spirit of the Pied Piper. EW.COM

Reel Time

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

Brother vs. brother recipe for drama

In the movies often the only thing brothers have in common is a last name. Creating conflict between siblings makes good dramatic sense and it's a practice that harkens back to the very first set of brothers. Would the story of Cain and Abel have as much biblical oomph if the boys got along? I don't think so.

So it is with Tommy and Sam Cahill, played by Jake Gyllenhaal and Tobey Maguire, in this weekend's Brothers.

In the great tradition of movie siblings they're polar opposites; Tommy is an ex-con, Sam is a Marine Captain and former football star. You get the idea. But will Tommy go all Cain on Sam?

You'll have to buy a ticket to find out, but in the meantime here are some other movie brothers who turned out differently than mom and dad may have hoped.

Ricky & Doughboy Baker (Morris Chestnut and Ice Cube) from Boyz N the Hood are opposites, but when Doughboy takes revenge on the people who killed his brother it proves that blood, and bloodshed, is thicker than water.

In The Darjeeling Limited Jack (Jason Schwartzman) asks his brothers Francis (Owen Wilson) and Peter (Adrien Brody), "I wonder if the three of us would've been friends in real life? Not as brothers, but as people."

Good question. You couldn't find a more diverse trio: Francis is a compulsive sad sack, Peter a bundle of manic energy and Jack a collection of jangled nerves. They may never be friends, but by the end of a road trip in India they can at least tolerate one another.

In The Darjeeling Limited, Jason Schwartzman, from left, Adrien Brody and Owen Wilson play brothers with completely different personalities out on a trip across India.

"When brothers agree," the old saying goes, "no fortress is so strong as their common life." But when they disagree, look out.

Just ask Fredo Corleone. The Corleone boys each brought something different to the Godfather trilogy, but it is the "kiss of death" scene in part two between the kindhearted Fredo (John Cazale) and the ruthless Michael (Al Pacino) that gives new meaning to the term sibling rivalry.

"I know it was you Fredo," Michael says. "You broke my heart."

Siblings may not get along but it takes a real grim brother to order a hit on his younger brother.

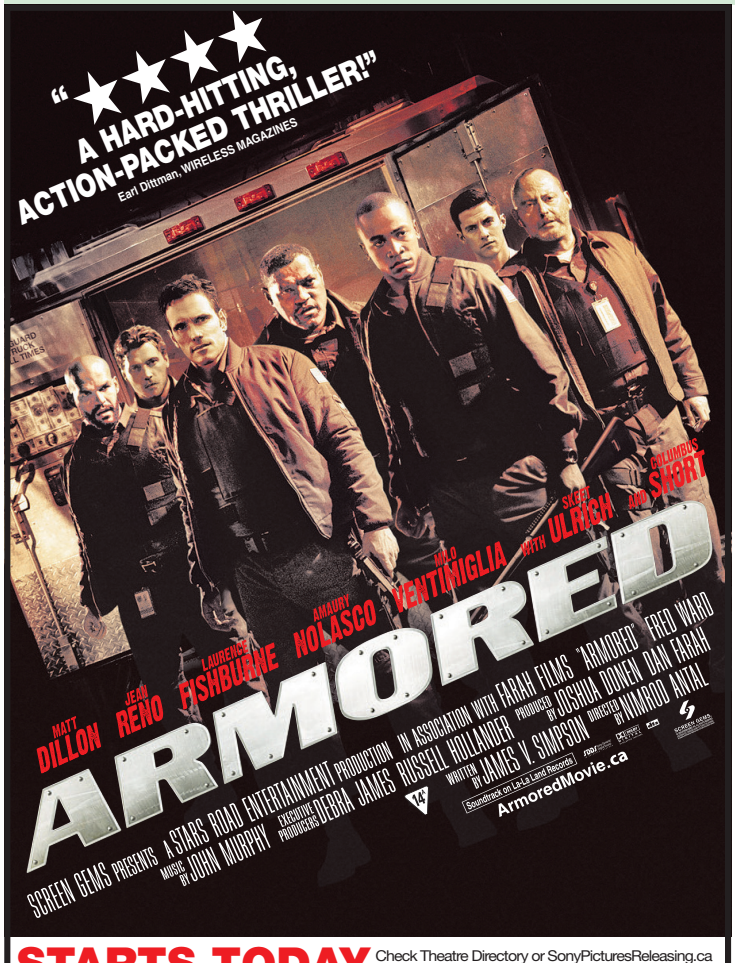
In Go West Chico Marx summed up the relationship most of these on-screen brothers share.

"You love your brother don't you?" he's asked.

"No, but I'm used to him," he replies.

"Would the story of Cain and Abel have as much biblical oomph if the boys got along? I don't think so."

Richard Crouse's Movie Show can be seen every Sunday at 6:30 p.m. on the E! Channel; mrchaos33@hotmail.com.



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This week's new releases are highlighted in pink.

Screen Times

THIS PAGE COVERS MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., DEC. 4 TO THURS., DEC. 10. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. COMPLETE LISTINGS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT METRONEWS.CA/MOVIES.

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Amelia (PG) Fri-Thu 12:50-3:40-7:05-9:40
Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs (G) Fri-Thu 1:20-4:10-6:45
Couples Retreat (PG) Fri-Thu 1:05-4:05-7:20-9:45
District 9 (14A) Fri-Thu 3:55-6:55-9:50
G-Force (G) Fri-Thu 1:25
The Hangover (18A) Fri-Thu 1:15-4:7-9:35
Inglourious Basterds (18A) Fri-Thu 9:10
The Invention of Lying (PG) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:20-7:30-9:40
Julie & Julia (PG) Fri-Thu 1-3:45-6:50-9:30
Paranormal Activity (14A) Fri-Thu 10
The Time Traveler's Wife (PG) Fri-Thu 12:45-9:35
Where the Wild Things Are (PG) Fri-Thu 1:10-3:50-7:15
Whip It (PG) Fri-Thu 4:15-7:15
Zombieland (18A) Fri-Thu 1:35-3:50-7:10-9:55

CROWFOOT CROSSING
91 Crowfoot Terrace, 403-547-3316

2012 (PG) Fri-Thu 2-6:30-10
Armored (14A) No Passes Fri-Thu 1:20-3:40-7:30-10:30
The Blind Side (PG) Fri-Thu 1:10-4:10-7:05-10:20
Brothers (STC) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:30-7:10-9:55
Disney's A Christmas Carol 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 12:10-2:50-5:10-7:35-10:05
Fantastic Mr. Fox (PG) No Passes Fri-Tue 12:20-2:40-5:7:25-9:40 No Passes Wed 1-3:10-5:15-7:25-9:40 No Passes Thu 12:20-2:40-5-7:25-9:40
The Men Who Stare at Goats (14A) Fri 12:40-3:50-6:45-9:30 Sat 3:50-6:45-9:30 Sun-Thu 12:40-3:50-6:45-9:30
The Metropolitan Opera: Turandot Encore (STC) Sat 11
Ninja Assassin (18A) Fri-Thu 12:50-4:20-6:50-9:50
Old Dogs (G) Fri-Thu 12-2:30-4:50-7:20-9:45
Planet 51 (G) Fri-Thu 12:15-2:45-5:15-7:40-10:10
The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) Fri-Thu 12:30-1-3:30-4-7-7:15-10:15-10:25

EAU CLAIRE MARKET
200 Barlay Parade, 403-263-3166

2012 (PG) Fri 6:30-10 Sat-Sun 2:50-6:30-10 Mon-Thu 8
An Education (PG) Fri 6:50-9:30 Sat-Sun 12:20-3:30-6:50-9:30 Mon-Thu 6:50-9:30
Fantastic Mr. Fox (PG) No Passes Fri 7:10-9:40 No Passes Sat-Sun 12:30-3-7:10-9:40 No Passes Mon-Thu 7:10-9:40
Ninja Assassin (18A) Fri 7:20-10:20 Sat-Sun 12:40-3:40-7:20-10:20 Mon-Thu 7:20-10:10
Precious: Based on the Novel "Push" by Sapphire (14A) Fri 7-10:10 Sat-Sun 12:10-3:10-7-10:10 Mon-Thu 7-10
The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) Fri 6:40-9:50 Sat-Sun 12-3:20-6:40-9:50 Mon-Thu 6:40-9:50

EMPIRE STUDIO 16 COUNTRY HILLS
388 Country Hills Blvd., 403-686-8491

2012 (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12-12:40-3:40-4:10-7:50-9:15
Armored (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:50-4:30-7:20-10
The Blind Side (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:20-3:15-7:10-10:05
Brothers (STC) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:45-3:25-7:25-10:05
Couples Retreat (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:10-4:20-6:55
Disney's A Christmas Carol 3D (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:10-3-6:40-9:20
Everybody's Fine (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:50-3:45-6:50-9:30
Fantastic Mr. Fox (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:15-3:10-6:45-9:25
Law Abiding Citizen (18A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:55-3:50-7:30-10:10
The Men Who Stare at Goats (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 9:35
Ninja Assassin (18A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri 2-4:40-7:45-10:15 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Thu 2-4:40-7:45-10:15
Old Dogs (G) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri 1:20-4:05-7:05-9:40 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Thu 1:20-4:05-7:05-9:40
Planet 51 (G) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:05-3:05-6:30-9
The Road (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:30-4:15-7:15-9:55
The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:30-1-3:30-4-7-8-9:50

EMPIRE STUDIO 10 MACLEOD TRAIL
100-16061 MacLeod Trail, 403-974-0470

2012 (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12-3:45-8
Armored (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 2-4:30-7:45-10:15
The Blind Side (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:10-3:20-7-10:10
Brothers (STC) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:30-4:20-7:30-10:20
Disney's A Christmas Carol (PG) Digital Presentation, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:15-4:15-7:15-9:40
Fantastic Mr. Fox (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Wed 12:20-3-6:30-9:10 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 12:20-3-9:10
Ninja Assassin (18A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri 12:30-3:10-6:40-9:20 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Tue 12:30-3:10-6:40-9:20 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Wed 3:10-9:20 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 12:30-3:10-6:40-9:20
Old Dogs (G) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri 1:45-4:10-7:10-9:30 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Thu 1:45-4:10-7:10-9:30
Planet 51 (G) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:45-3:30
The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1-4-6:50-7:20-10-10:30

GLOBE CINEMA
617-8 Avenue, 403-262-3308

The Boondock Saints II: All Saints Day (18A) Fri 7-9:20 Sat-Sun 1-3:20-7-9:20 Mon-Thu 7-9:20
The Nutcracker (STC) Fri 6:45-9:15 Sat 10-2-6:45-9:15 Sun 2-6:45-9:15 Mon-Thu 6:45-9:15

MOVIEDOME
1039 999 36 St. N.E., 403-248-2000

Cirque du Freak: The Vampire's Assistant (PG) Fri-Thu 1-3:45-10
Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs (G) Fri-Thu 12:55-4-6:40
Couples Retreat (PG) Fri-Thu 12:45-3:40-6:45-9:40
De Dana Dan (PG) Fri-Thu 6:30-9:15
District 9 (14A) Fri-Thu 12:45-3:35-6:50-9:35
Paa (STC) Fri-Thu 2-8:30
The Stepfather (14A) Fri-Thu 12:50-3:50-6:55-9:50
Surrogates (14A) Fri-Thu 1:10-4:10-7-9:55
Where the Wild Things Are (PG) Fri-Thu 1:05-3:55-7:05-9:45
Zombieland (18A) Fri-Thu 1:15-4:05-7:10-10:05

SCOTIABANK CHINOOK
6455 MacLeod Trail, 403-212-8994

2012 (PG) Fri 11:30-1-3-4:30-6:45-8-10:15 Sat 3-4:30-6:45-8-10:15 Sun-Tue 11:30-1-3-4:30-6:45-8-10:15 Wed 1-3-4:30-8-10:15 Thu 11:30-1-3-4:30-6:45-8-10:15 Sat 11:30
Armored (14A) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:15-2:40-5:10-7:35-10:25
The Blind Side (PG) Fri-Thu 12:50-4-7:10-10:10
Brothers (STC) Fri-Thu 1:10-4:05-7:20-10:05
Disney's A Christmas Carol 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 12-2:30-5-7:30-10
Disney's A Christmas Carol: An IMAX 3D Experience (PG) Fri-Thu 11:30-2-4:30-7-9:30
Everybody's Fine (PG) Fri-Thu 12:50-3:45-6:50-9:50
Fantastic Mr. Fox (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:05-2:20-4:50-7:10-9:35
The Men Who Stare at Goats (14A) Fri-Thu 11:50-2:10-4:50-7:30-10:20
The Metropolitan Opera: Turandot Encore (STC) Sat 11
Ninja Assassin (18A) Fri-Thu 1:15-4:15-7:25-10:20
Old Dogs (G) Fri-Thu 11:45-2:15-4:40-7:05-9:40
Planet 51 (G) Fri-Thu 11:55-2:15-4:45-7:05-9:45
The Road (14A) Fri-Thu 1:20-4:10-7:15-10:10
The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) Fri-Thu 12:30-1-3:30-4-7-7:15-10:05-10:15 Fri-Thu 1:30-4:30-7:30-10:30

PLAZA THEATRE
1133 Kensington Rd. N.W., 403-283-3636

The Cove (PG) Sun 5
Good Hair (PG) Fri 5-7-9:10 Sat 12:30-2:30-7-9:10 Sun 2:30-7-9:10 Mon-Wed 5-7-9:10 Thu 5-9:10
Pages Authors at the Plaza 2 (STC) Sun 11
The Reckoning: The Battle for the International Criminal Court (STC) Thu 7

SUNRIDGE SPECTRUM
2555 32nd Street, 403-717-1200

2012 (PG) Fri-Wed 12-2-3:30-6:35-7:10-10:15 Thu 12-2-3:30-6:35-10:15
Armored (14A) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:50-3:25-7:30-10
The Blind Side (PG) Fri-Thu 12:20-3:40-7:20-10:30
The Boondock Saints II: All Saints Day (18A) Fri-Thu 12:30-3:20-7:25-10:25
Brothers (STC) Fri-Thu 12:40-3:35-6:50-9:40
Disney's A Christmas Carol 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 12:05-2:45-5:05-7:35-10:10
Everybody's Fine (PG) Fri-Tue 12:35-3:10-6:45-9:30 Wed 3:10-6:45-9:30 Thu 12:35-3:10-6:45-9:30 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
Fantastic Mr. Fox (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 11:55-2:20-5-7:35-9:55
Ninja Assassin (18A) Fri-Thu 12:25-3:15-6:40-9:35
Old Dogs (G) Fri-Tue 12:10-2:40-5:15-7:45-10:20 Wed 5:15-7:45-10:20 Thu 12:10-2:40-5:15-7:45-10:20 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
Planet 51 (G) Fri-Thu 11:50-2:30-5:10-7:40-10:05
The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) Fri-Thu 12:15-3:45-6:55-10:10 Fri-Thu 12:45-4:05-7:15-10:35
Up in the Air (14A) No Passes Thu 7

THE UPTOWN STAGE & SCREEN
612 8th Ave. S.W., 403-265-0120

Antichrist (R) Fri 7-9:15 Sat-Sun 12:30-2:45-7-9:15 Mon-Thu 7-9:15
Lemonade (STC) Wed 5:30
The Road (14A) Fri 4:45-7:10-9:30 Sat-Sun 2:15-4:45-7:10-9:30 Mon-Thu 4:45-7:10-9:30
A Serious Man (14A) Fri 4:50 Sat-Sun 12:15-4:50 Mon-Tue 4:50 Thu 4:50

WESTHILLS 10
165 Stewart Green, 403-246-5291

2012 (PG) Fri-Sun 1:10-4:30-8 Mon-Thu 5:05-8:20
The Blind Side (PG) Fri-Sun 12:40-3:40-6:55-9:55 Mon-Thu 5:55-8:50
Brothers (STC) Fri-Sun 12:45-3:20-7:35-10:15 Mon-Thu 6:05-8:40
Disney's A Christmas Carol 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 1:30-4-7:20-9:40 Mon-Thu 5:10-7:40
Ninja Assassin (18A) Fri-Sun 1:50-4:40-7:50-10:20 Mon-Thu 6:15-9
Planet 51 (G) Fri-Sun 1:40-4:20-7-9:20 Mon-Thu 5:35-7:50
Precious: Based on the Novel "Push" by Sapphire (14A) Fri-Sun 12:50-3:30-6:45-9:30 Mon-Thu 5:25-8
The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) Fri-Sun 1:20-4:10-7:10-10:05 Mon-Thu 5:20-8:10

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Billboard' s top albums

1. I Dreamed a Dream, Susan Boyle; 2. My Christmas, Andrea Bocelli; 3. For Your Entertainment, Adam Lambert; 4. Rated, Rihanna; 5. The Fame Monster (EP), Lady Gaga. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Music

Decade that changed music

iPod, YouTube among inventions that forever altered the industry

SoundCheck

With just 28 days to go in the first decade of the 21st century, we still haven't figured out what to call the last ten years. The Zeros? The Noughts? I asked my grandfather for a little guidance on what they did 100 years ago, but he was born in 1910, so he apologizes for not being of much help.

Whatever the case, 'tis a time of reflection and wonder. On Dec. 4, 1999, there was no such thing as Red Bull, PVRs and the Toyota Prius. We could still visit the observation deck at the World Trade Center and shop at Pets.com. Our airline tickets were still made of paper and we were scared our computers might not cope with the switch over to 2000 and launch some nukes by mistake.

The changes in music since then have been seismic.

Napster (Introduced June 1, 1999): Offered to 30 acquaintances by 19 year-old Shawn Fanning, it gave free file-sharing to people who wanted more music than they could afford to buy. Despite their aggressive litigiousness, the recording industry has been irrevocably changed.

iTunes (January 9, 2001): While the record labels were arguing over what to do about digital downloads, Steve Jobs stepped in with an elegant a la carte 99-cent-per-track solution. iTunes is now the biggest single retailer of music in the world.

Wikipedia (January 15, 2001): Once upon a time we had to rely on quickly outdated magazines and books for information on our favourite music. Then Geocities-hosted fan sites became repositories of valuable information. Allmusic.com is still excellent, but it can't beat Wikipedia for speed when it comes to updates.

The iPod (October 23, 2001): Unveiled in the post 9/11 fog, the original Mac-only iPod was exponentially better than any of the MP3 players that had come before it. And because they had already accepted iTunes, the record labels didn't go to war with Apple over it.

YouTube (February 2005): MuchMusic and MTV used to be the primary sources for music videos. Today, they barely bother. Meanwhile, search for just about any song or any video on YouTube and you'll almost certainly find it instantly. Google, YouTube's parent (they bought it for $1.65 billion in November 2006) boasts they get a billion views a day.

My, how much can change in just a couple of years.

"The changes in music (in the last decade) have been seismic."

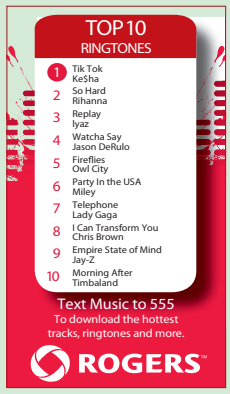
The Ongoing History Of New Music can be heard on stations across Canada. Read more at ongoinghistory.com and exploremusic.com

Furtado, k-os, pay tribute to Neale

PEOPLE Victoria songstress Nelly Furtado and Toronto hip-hop artist k-os are among a star-studded group who have been announced as performers at a celebration of late Jackson soul singer Haydain Neale.

Keshia Chante, Divine Brown, Luke McMaster and Justin Nozuka are also scheduled to perform at the concert, which will be held Monday at Toronto's Phoenix Concert Theatre.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



HMV's top albums
1. I Dreamed a Dream, Susan Boyle; 2. My Christmas, Andrea Bocelli; 3. The Fame Monster, Lady Gaga; 4. Crazy Love, Michael Bublé; 5. Vox Pop, Maxime Landry. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Auf der Maur is back

Ex-Hole bassist has new film, comic book and album

BRYAN BORZYKOWSKI
for Metro Canada

It's been five years since Melissa Auf der Maur — the Montreal-raised Hole and Smashing Pumpkins bassist — released any solo music.

It wasn't supposed to take this long, there was some music ready to go, but the faltering music industry held her back. "I have literally been busy fighting lawyers and record companies," she says on the phone from a small town in upstate New York.

Basically, her label, she says, "crumbled" and her "record was trapped in the system." She could have thrown in the towel, but instead she tapped into her visual arts background, and made a movie, a comic book, an interactive website, and, finally, a new album. The projects are all based around one tune — the trippy rocker Out of Our Minds, which is out now. (A full album will be released in 2010.) The film, Auf der Maur explains, is a "fantasy, time travel film."

"The song is the heart of the record," she says. "It's literally a cry to travel out of our minds and into a hearts, which is the story of the film. It's about a woman who is on the hunt for a heart and travels through time. It's a visual epic, with car crashes and bleeding trees." Auf der Maur also wrote the firm score — with A Perfect Circle bassist Paz Lenchantin — which she says was "liberating."

"Music is definitely the heart of all this."
Melissa Auf der Maur

The comic book puts the film into pictures, an idea she got from her hero Glenn Danzig who has a comic book line, while the website will "allow people to continue to experience this in different ways," she explains.

Developing all these ideas wasn't easy. She actually had to mortgage her two houses (she's got one in upstate N.Y. and one in Montreal) to pay for everything. "That's the way I do things," she says. "I believe in going broke."

But, despite the cost, Auf der Maur knew she had to do something different with her career.

While she can now be called a comic book author, a filmmaker and even a web producer, she's still most excited by making music. "If I had to pick one mode of communication to express something to the masses, it would be a three-minute song. No question," she says. "To communicate furthest and widest it's going to be music. Music is definitely the heart of all this."

Former Hole and Smashing Pumpkins bassist Melissa Auf der Maur tapped into her visual arts background, and made a movie, a comic book, an interactive website, and, finally, a new album.

Canada's independent record companies branch out

NICK KREWEN
for Metro Canada

Faced with shrinking market shares, fragmenting audiences, disappearing brick-and-mortar recorded music retailers and a continued double-digit decline in compact disc sales, Canadian independent record labels that exclusively sold and distributed CDs until a few years ago are acting as agents and booking concert tours for their artists.

They have formed in-house management companies, and bought ticket agencies and digital download retailers.

"The entire music industry is changing, and nobody knows what it's changing into, so everyone's trying to create new strategies that work for them," says Lloyd Nishimura, president of Toronto's Outside Music, whose company has expanded into artist management with a roster that includes sibling songwriters Matthew and Jill Barber and the Hylozoists.

"I don't think it's that much of a stretch if you're a management company to have in-house booking or other music-related businesses."

"It's a necessity," adds Geoff Kulawick, president of Burlington-based Linus Entertainment, True North Records and The Children's Group.

Kulawick, who launched a booking agency under the True North banner in 2008 to promote such developing label artists as Lynn Miles, Catherine MacLellan and Madison Violet, says a hands-on approach to careers is essential these days.

"We can't be operating in the music space and sell only one aspect of it," he says. "We're moving from being a record company to becoming a music experience company, and anything that's connected to the music experience that we can monetize, we want to be there."

"We're moving from being a record company to becoming a music experience company."
Geoff Kulawick

Nishimura, whose company has expanded to include a stake in digital retailer Zunior.com and handle the business affairs of musicians, says the Internet has fragmented audiences to a point where marketing can be a challenge.

"With the Internet, people have exposure to every single artist around the world all at the same time, so it is just difficult to stand out from the crowd," says Nishimura.

At the same, Nishimura says the potential opportunities through the still-evolving digital market are limitless: "There are so many different ways that digital revenue comes in."

These companies aren't alone. In July, publicly traded Somerset Entertainment Income Fund, a Toronto-headquartered specialty music label formed on the backbone of the late Dan Gibson's groundbreaking nature recordings, purchased digital music retailer Puretracks for $3 million.

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California choppers set to churn up the TV pavement next fall

Sons of Anarchy fans left hanging after Tuesday's climatic Season 2 finale can rest easy — the FX drama has been renewed for a third season. The series, about a California outlaw motorcycle gang, is scheduled to return in September 2010. **TVGUIDE.COM**

Television

A vampire living in La-La Land

True Blood actor Alexander Skarsgård sets up shop in Hollywood

KATRINA MATSSON
Metro World News

Alexander Skarsgård has a tan. That's what happens when you're living in Los Angeles, he explains.
He is still looking for an apartment in Venice Beach, where friends from True Blood Stephen Moyer and Anna Paquin, already live.

"It is one of the few areas in Los Angeles where you can actually walk around. I'm used to my friends living only a few blocks away and meeting in local bars and I miss that," says the True Blood star.

After having played "the tall blond hunk" in enough movies in Sweden, Skarsgård moved to Hollywood where he landed roles in HBO war drama Generation Kill and vampire-based hit series True Blood.

Since the move, he has gone from unemployed to celebrity.

"There's not a single young girl that I know in Hollywood that I have not been paired with ... if I get into a taxi with a girl, suddenly we're married."
Alexander Skarsgård

And the attention is intense across in California, he said.

"You drive everywhere in L.A., so you sit protected in your little bubble of steel.

"But after season two of True Blood I noticed quite a big difference. Of course I see that stuff is written about me, but I never read fan sites and blogs. I don't think it's good for me," he said.

"If it is negative, I know that it will weigh on me or else you only read the positive stuff and your ego sort of swells up and explodes."

The rumours about Alexander's love life are rampant, and he's been linked to co-stars Evan Rachel Wood and Kate Bosworth.

"There's not a single young girl that I know in Hollywood that I have not been paired with.

"But that's what happens if I get into a taxi with a girl, suddenly we're married."

So far, he's convinced fame and fortune have not changed him.

"Nothing would hurt me more than if someone told me that I'd changed. But I do not think so. I was still over 30 when things started to happen for me in the U.S."

Alexander Skarsgård, originaly from Stockholm, Sweden, plays vampire Eric Northman in the popular HBO series True Blood.

Alexander Skarsgård on ...

- Kate Bosworth, co-star in Straw Dogs: "She is incredibly strong in this film. She really threw herself out there and took a risk. I have lot respect for her, not that many beautiful Hollywood babes would dare to. She is a super smart, cool girl."
- Lady Gaga, co-star in the music video for Paparazzi: "We only worked together for a day. It was mad. She is a bit out there, but she's also very driven."
- Evan Rachel Wood, co-star on True Blood: "She is really one of her generation's best actresses, terribly clever. I think she'll become one of the greatest of her generation."

Heather Locklear returns to Melrose Place, bringing a familiar face to a new cast.

TV networks try out different formulas to gain viewers

MONICA WEYMOUTH
Metro World News

Some shows have it easy — one look at Joan Holloway wiggling across the office, and you're tuning into Mad Men for the rest of the season.
But what if you're one of the many spin-offs, supernatural dramas, or crime shows that debuted this fall? How do you wiggle and hook an audience?
Some clever strategies are behind the frontrunners — and lacking in the others.

BE SMART WHEN SPINNING OFF When NCIS opened a Los Angeles office, the drama had an audience waiting. Not only did it follow the original on Tuesday nights, but a second show was believable.

"Clearly, there's an appetite for CSIs and Law and Orders and NCIS. These things feel organic," says Dan Manu, site director of TelevisionWithoutPity.com. "It's conceivable that there are more police stations, more cases."

As for the new Melrose Place, audiences had to make a leap with new stars and producers 17 years after the original. "They're going with the Hail Mary pass in bringing in Heather Locklear," says Manu. "But with the younger audience they're going for, how many people even know who Heather Locklear is?"

TIMING CAN MAKE OR BREAK We might have fallen for the Glee kids without slick marketing moves, but airing the pilot after American Idol didn't hurt. "Fox did something really smart," says Mickey O'Connor, senior editor of TVGuide.com. "That audience really gets into the music."

As for ABC's The Middle, O'Connor predicts it might go down with the less successful Hank, which the half-hour comedy shares an hour timeslot with.

STICK TO THE RECIPE If you want to stand out among the hordes of supernatural shows, you better do it right. Vampire Diaries took a tried and very true path: bloodsuckers, an established book series, high school drama.

"It had a built in audience," says O'Connor. "The same thing happened with True Blood — the readers tuned in."

The long view

Just because a show makes all the right moves in Season 1 doesn't necessarily mean it will live past its infancy. Tasha Oren, Associate Professor of English and Media Studies at University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee cites Web streaming as cutting into profits, and also points out that trend-driven, teen-centric shows such as Glee and Vampire Diaries aren't even designed to stick around.

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AMVIC LICENSED

Lambert let go from show lineups

Adam Lambert's scandalous American Music Awards performance is still wreaking havoc on his schedule, as the ex-American Idol star says he's been canned from two future ABC performances, including one on New Year's Eve. **PEOPLE.COM**

Television

Toronto-born Caterina Scorsone beat out 500 other actresses to play the lead in the upcoming Alice in Wonderland miniseries.

Alice packs a punch in Wonderland

IAN JOHNSTON
for Metro Canada

The new Alice In Wonderland isn't some blond girl getting bounced from adventure to adventure. She's a horse-riding, judo-trained twentysomething brunette who doesn't take bull from no Queen or Cheshire Cat.

"Oh god. There was a lot of running, and flying, and fighting and falling into lakes," says Caterina Scorsone, who stars in this adult reworking of the Lewis Carroll classic.

"It's probably day-for-day, the most physical thing I've been involved with."

The Toronto-born Scorsone — whose credits include TV series like Power Play, Crash, and the upcoming Mel Gibson film Edge of Darkness — isn't sure how she beat out 500 actresses for the coveted role of Alice. Truth is, she didn't even meet director Nick Willing (Tin Man) till the project was close to filming.

"I guess Nick had been turning over every rock looking for an Alice. I put something to tape and sent it into their offices. He saw it and I was flown in to meet him. Four days later I got the part. It was great that it was so quick. I didn't have time to be intimidated."

The two part Alice airs Sunday and Monday night on Showcase.

Feeling intimidated must have been hard to avoid on the B.C.-shot Alice. The miniseries features a supporting cast that includes Kathy Bates, Harry Dean Stanton, Colm Meaney and Tim Curry.

"I think what attracted all these talented people was the script. We knew going in it was fantasy sci-fi, so there would be a lot of special effects and green screen. But the actual story and characters were strong enough on the page that you wanted to do it."

Now based out of Los Angeles, the 28-year-old Scorsone frequently makes it back to Canada, where she first got her start as a kid actor on — get this — Mr. Dressup.

"That was a healthy way to start out an acting career. I'd just show up and sing and dress-up. It wasn't some dark, brooding drama," she laughs.

"Sometimes it feels like I work more in Canada than the U.S. Which is fine. Toronto is one of my favourite cities in the world."

FRIDAY

CA	Vu	SC	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
12/4/09	243	317 3 CFCN	etalk	Access H.	The Beatles on Record		Ghost Whisperer (N)		Medium (HDTV) (N)		News
	-	- 4 OMNI	The Office	The Simpsons	Omni News: S. Asian Edition		Omni News: Cantonese Edition		Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Friends
	-	371 5 KXLY	4 News at 6	4 News at 6:30	Entertainment	The Insider (N)	Celebration of Disney		Ugly Betty (HDTV) (N)		20/20 (N)
	245	306 6 CBRT	NHL Hockey: Bruins at Canadiens			CBC News	Wheel Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	CBC News: The National		The Hour
	244	338 7 CICT	ET Canada	Entertainment	NUMB3RS "Old Soldiers"		Dollhouse "The Public Eye; The Left Hand" (HDTV) (N)				News Hour
	246	- 8 CKAL	Law & Order: SVU		The Jay Leno Show (N)		Supernanny		Ugly Betty (HDTV) (N)		Your City
	-	372 12 KREM	News	Access H.	The Doctors (N)		Ghost Whisperer (N)		Medium (HDTV) (N)		NUMB3RS
	-	374 14 KSPS	NewsHour With Jim Lehrer		Wash. Week	McLaughlin	Bill Moyers Journal (N)		Great Performances (HDTV)		
	-	370 16 KHQ	News (N)	Millionaire	Jeopardy! (N)	Wheel Fortune	Muppets Christmas: Letters		Dateline NBC (N)		Jay Leno Show
	-	373 22 KAYU	The Office	Raymond	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Dollhouse "The Public Eye; The Left Hand" (HDTV) (N)				News
news	502	390 15 CBC	CBC News: The National		Secret World of Shoplifting		CBC News: The National		CBC News: The National		Secret-Shoplift
	500	500 29 CNN	Larry King Live (N)		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)				Larry King Live		Cooper 360
	501	391 52 CTV	CTV News Tonight		News	CTV News	News	CTV News	News	CTV News	News
sports	400	400 21 TSN	Basketball	SportsCentre		That's Hockey!	SportsCentre	Off the Record	Boxing (HDTV)		
	408	418 27 net	Skiing (Live)		Best Damn Sports Show		Hockey Central	Flames Week	Sportsnet Connected		Ultimate Fight
family	400	400 20 YTV	iCarly	To Be Indie	*Merry Christmas, Drake & Josh* (2008, Comedy)				Prank Patrol	Prank Patrol	That's-Weird
	557	541 39 FAM	Zeke & Luther	Jonas	Sonny Chance	*Nancy Drew* ★★ (2002, Mystery)			*Snow Dogs* ★★ (2002, Comedy), Sisqó		
cable variety	603	561 25 FOOD	Bobby Flay	Chef Abroad	Diner, Drive-In	Diner, Drive-In	Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares		Unwrapped	Unwrapped	Bobby Flay
	615	520 26 A&E	Criminal Minds (HDTV)		Criminal Minds (HDTV)		CSI: Miami (HDTV)		(10:01) Criminal Minds		Criminal Minds
	617	522 32 SHOW	Trailer Park	Trailer Park	The Outer Limits		Howie Do It	Howie Do It	Kenny-Spenny	Kenny-Spenny	Law Order
	520	505 35 DISC	Man vs. Wild "Belize"		Biblical Mysteries Explained		Daily Planet		Man vs. Wild "Belize"		Worst Driver
	628	584 43 SPIKE	UFC Unleashed		UFC Unleashed		UFC Unleashed		The Ultimate Fighter (HDTV)		
	522	516 45 HIST	Go Deep (HDTV)		Battles BC		Cold Blood		When Disaster Strikes		Underworld
	-	- 47 AMC	*National Lamp. Christmas*		(8:15) *National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation* ★★ (1989, Comedy)					*Ghostbusters II* (1989)	
	581	566 102 MTV	From The Hills to The City		The Hills	The City	MTV Live	Cribs	Catching Up: Teen Mom		The Hills

SATURDAY

CA	Vu	SC	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
12/5/09	243	317 3 CFCN	Shrek the Halls	Corner Gas	*Anne of Green Gables: A New Beginning* (2008, Drama) Shirley MacLaine. (DVS)						News
	-	- 4 OMNI	Omni News: Mandarin Edition		Once Upon a Time in Toronto		Once Upon a Time in Toronto		Trendy Zone	Chinese Rest.	Most Amazing
	-	371 5 KXLY	(6) College Football Big 12 Championship -- Nebraska vs. Texas.					The Insider (N)	Entertainment Tonight		ReGenesis
	245	306 6 CBRT	NHL Hockey		NHL Hockey Calgary Flames at San Jose Sharks. (HDTV) (Live)					HNIC: After Hours	
	244	338 7 CICT	renegadepress	Jane Show	Project Runway Canada		*Mistaken* (2008, Suspense) Lana Parrilla, James Thomas.				News Final (N)
	246	- 8 CKAL	My RONA Home (DVS)		Glenn Martin	Out There	*Thralls* (2005, Horror) Siri Baruc, Leah Cairns. (DVS)				The City Show
	-	372 12 KREM	News	Scrubs	Grey's Anatomy		Medium (HDTV)		CSI: NY "Help" (HDTV)		48 Hours Myst.
	-	374 14 KSPS	Happy Holidays: Andy Williams			Pledge				Pledge	
	-	370 16 KHQ	News (N)	Judge Judy	CSI: NY "Oedipus Hex"		Parks-Recreat	*The Incredibles* ★★★ (2004, Adventure)			
	-	373 22 KAYU	House		Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Cops (N)	Cops	America's Most Wanted		News
news	502	390 15 CBC	National	Mansbridge	Wal-Mart Nation		National	News: At Issue	National	Mansbridge	Wal-Mart Natn
	500	500 29 CNN	(6) Black in America		Newsroom		Black in America "Tomorrow's Leaders"				Newsroom
	501	391 52 CTV	CTV News Weekend		News	CTV News	News	CTV News	News	CTV News	News
sports	400	400 21 TSN	NBA Basketball: Raptors at Bulls			SportsCentre (HDTV) (Live)			Boxing Mikkel Kessler vs. Andre Ward. (HDTV)		
	408	418 27 net	Premier League Soccer		The Ultimate Fighter						Sportsnet Con.
family	552	543 20 YTV	*Blizzard* ★★ (2003, Fantasy) Brenda Blethyn.				Funniest Home Videos		That's-Weird	Sorry-No Head	Survive This
	557	541 39 FAM	(7:01) Jonas	Overruled!	Suite Life	Zoey 101	Zack & Cody	Han. Montana	*A Dog of Flanders* ★★ (1999, Drama)		
cable variety	603	561 25 FOOD	Chopped		Top Chef All Stars Dinner		The F Word		Dear Food Network		Chopped
	615	520 26 A&E	Criminal Minds (HDTV)		Criminal Minds (HDTV)		CSI: Miami (HDTV)		(10:01) Criminal Minds		Criminal Minds
	617	522 32 SHOW	*The Invasion*	About a Girl	The Guard		*The Christmas Choir* (2008, Drama) Jason Gedrick.				*The Invasion*
	520	505 35 DISC	Canada's Worst Driver		Time Warp Deadly snakes.		Criss Angel Mindfreak (N)		Canada's Worst Driver		Destroyed
	628	584 43 SPIKE	The Ultimate Fighter (HDTV) (Live)						MANswers (N)	Ways to Die	Ult. Fighter
	522	516 45 HIST	Re-Inventors	Re-Inventors	Ultimate Engineering		Cities of the Underworld		*Nixon* ★★★ (1995, Biography)		
	-	- 47 AMC	(6) *White Christmas* ★★★ (1954)			(8:45) *White Christmas* ★★★ (1954, Musical Comedy) Bing Crosby.					
	581	566 102 MTV	Peak Season	Peak Season	MTV Live	Cribs	Cribs	1 girl 5 gays	Peak Season	Peak Season	Peak Season

SUNDAY

CA	Vu	SC	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
12/6/09	243	317 3 CFCN	Flashpoint		Cold Case "Forensics"		The Amazing Race 15		Desperate Housewives		News
	-	- 4 OMNI	Without a Trace "Rage"		Aaram (N)	Chardi Kalaa	Bollywood Boulevard (DVS)		Sid vs. Alexander		Grandmother
	-	371 5 KXLY	News	Storm Stories	Funniest Home Videos		Extreme Makeover: Home		Desperate Housewives		Brothers
	245	306 6 CBRT	Heartland (N) (DVS)		*Happy Feet* ★★★ (2006, Adventure), Brittany Murphy				CBC News: The National		fifth estate
	244	338 7 CICT	16:9 Picture	Prod. Parker	(8:01) Brothers & Sisters (N)		The Simpsons	Cleveland	Family Guy	American Dad	News Final (N)
	246	- 8 CKAL	Survivorman (DVS)		My RONA Home (DVS)		Extreme Makeover: Home		Conviction Kitchen		Most Amazing
	-	372 12 KREM	KREM 2 News at 6 (N)		60 Minutes (HDTV) (N)		The Amazing Race 15		Cold Case "Forensics"		NCIS: LA
	-	374 14 KSPS	(6) Great Performances		Unchartered Territory David Thompson-				Andre Rieu Live in Dresden: Wedding		
	-	370 16 KHQ	(6:15) NFL Football Minnesota Vikings at Arizona Cardinals.					Mark Few	CSI: Miami (HDTV)		CSI: NY
	-	373 22 KAYU	House		Brothers	'Til Death	Cleveland	The Simpsons	Family Guy	American Dad	News
news	502	390 15 CBC	CBC News: The National		An Inconvenient Truth				CBC News: The National		Inconvenient
	500	500 29 CNN	(6) Black in America		Newsroom		Black in America "Today's Pioneers"				State of Union
	501	391 52 CTV	CTV News Weekend		News	CTV News	News	CTV News	News	CTV News	News
sports	400	400 21 TSN	(6:15) NFL Football Minnesota Vikings at Arizona Cardinals.					SportsCentre		Canada's Sports Hall	
	408	418 27 net	(6) WHL Hockey Vancouver Giants at Chilliwack Bruins.				Skiing		Sportsnet Connected		PartyPoker.net
family	552	543 20 YTV	*The Dog Who Saved Christmas* (2009, Comedy)				SpongeBob	Family Biz (N)	Smallville "Bulletproof"		Survive This
	557	541 39 FAM	(7:01) Jonas	Overruled!	Suite Life	Zoey 101	Zack & Cody	Han. Montana	*Ernest Saves Christmas* ★★ (1988, Comedy)		
cable variety	603	561 25 FOOD	Iron Chef America		Dinner: Impossible		Restaurant Makeover		Get on Plate	Food Detective	Iron Chef Am.
	615	520 26 A&E	Criminal Minds "Lucky"		Criminal Minds (HDTV)		CSI: Miami (HDTV)		(10:01) Criminal Minds		Criminal Minds
	617	522 32 SHOW	NCIS "Broken Bird"		Cra$h & Burn "Freedom"		*Alice* (2009, Adventure) Caterina Scorsone, Colm Meaney.				Weeds
	520	505 35 DISC	(6) Touching the Void		MythBusters		Anthony Bourdain		Touching the Void		
	628	584 43 SPIKE	Disorderly Conduct: Video		Disorderly Conduct: Video		Wild World	*Kung Fu Hustle* ★★★ (2004, Action) Stephen Chow.			
	522	516 45 HIST	Ice Road Truckers		Ancient Discoveries		The Hangman's Graveyard (N)		*The Green Mile* ★★★ (1999, Drama)		
	-	- 47 AMC	(4) *The Green Mile*		The Prisoner "Schizoid; Checkmate" (HDTV)				The Prisoner "Schizoid; Checkmate"		
	581	566 102 MTV	Catching Up: Teen Mom		Real World-Road Rules		1 girl 5 gays	Over the Bolts	Peak Season	Peak Season	Real World-Rd

Canadian films find buyers

INDUSTRY Telefilm Canada says homegrown TV producers and filmmakers landed about $85 million in foreign sales last year. The federal agency says that's up roughly 21 per cent from the previous year. Some of Canada's biggest TV hits in recent years have involved high-profile foreign sales and co-productions, like CTV's Flashpoint, also airing on CBS, and CBC's Irish co-production, The Tudors. Much of that success appeared to come at MIPTV, the annual international TV market in Cannes, France, where 96 per cent of Canadian participants said they scored deals. They reported sales of roughly $5.2 million. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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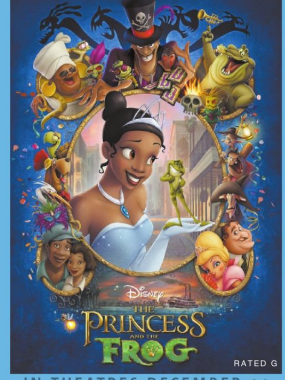

IN THEATRES DECEMBER 11

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No purchase necessary. Enter daily for more chances to win. Contest open to Canadian residents of legal age, excluding residents of Quebec. Contest closes December 6, 2009 at 11:59pm. Odds of winning depend on number of entries received. For full contest rules and details, visit www.metronews.ca.

Nepal leads the world in temperature rise
The temperature is rising faster in Nepal than anywhere else in the world. Experts are fearing floods, droughts and lost crops will become the norm in just a few years time. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Go Green

METRO WORLD NEWS

Pantanal is the largest wetland in the world. Locals credit tourism for the growing understanding of their environment.

Tourism helping environment

LOTTA IMBERG
Metro World News

"Thanks to tourism people in this area understand the value in preserving the unique environment." André von Thuronyi

Feeling guilty about vacationing abroad? No more. As an eco-tourist you can actually make a difference for the environment.

"Eco-tourism can save threatened areas," says zoologist Lars-åke Janzon

In Pantanal, Brazil, the world's largest wetland, tourism has contributed to more sustainable living conditions for its birds and animals.

"Thanks to tourism people in this area understand the value in preserving the unique environment," says André von Thuronyi.

He runs Araras Ecolodge in northern Pantanal where he has been guiding tourists for more than 30 years. He says people's attitudes have changed during the years.

Go Green

"Before, the farmers shot jaguars and pumas to protect their livestock. Parrots that ate fruit in gardens were captured and sold, caymans were made into shoes and bags. Tourism has made a difference," he said.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Eco-tourism

- Promotes minimal impact
- Builds environmental and cultural respect
- Provides direct financial benefits for conservation.
- Provides financial empowerment and financial commitments to locals.

72 Earlier this year Brazil launched a nationwide operation against illegal hunting and trade in wildlife, in collaboration with Interpol. 72 people were arrested for having smuggled half a million wild animals a year to rich customers around the world.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Vanessa Farquharson, a Canadian journalist, committed to living green for one year.

Committing herself to a green life

CHANGES Switching off her fridge, Vanessa Farquharson, a Canadian journalist, committed herself to 366 green changes for one year.

"I came up with the idea to overhaul my life in the most extreme green way possible and document what was and wasn't possible for other readers," said the author of Sleeping Naked is Green.

Can you explain the book title?

The idea is that if you aren't using pyjamas, you're creating less laundry and therefore require less detergent and water.

You did things like sell your car and gave up tampons. Are you still doing it?

I'm still keeping up about 75 per cent of my changes, but have let some things slide – I'll eat imported avocados now, for example, and blow my nose in disposable kleenex

Where did you get the inspiration?

Looked around the room. METRO WORLD NEWS

Climate adviser recalls Nepal's white peaks

Go Green

SUSANNE SAYERS
Metro World News

COP15 In the office of Care in Nepal, climate advisor Maksha Ram Maharjan is preparing himself to go the COP 15.

He will be there to stress the problems of Nepal and the whole Himalaya Region, explaining how the receding glaciers threaten a large amount of the population in Asia and across the rest of the region.

He looks out of the window and points to the peaks that can be seen in the distance:

"As a child I used to sit with my mother and look at the white mountains, and we would imagine they looked like animals or other things, just like people try to see different shapes in clouds. So we would find a white sheep or a heron ... now the peaks are black."

METRO WORLD NEWS

METRO WORLD NEWS

The glaciers have worked as water towers, collecting the rain from the monsoon and releasing it in the dry season

10 10 of the largest rivers in Asia get their water from the more than 15,000 glaciers in Himalaya. 1.3 billion people are dependent on them.

Climate challenge – the safety's off

The world is getting warmer, and it's very likely that this is the product of human emissions of greenhouse gases. That is the conclusion of the UN's climate panel. But when does man's impact on the climate become dangerous? Is the UN track the right one? Is carbon capture and storage a solution or just a smokescreen? Is the threat to the climate an opportunity for companies? *How do different scientists view the matter? Read this book to find out!*

This book can be purchased at **www.formasfokuserar.se** Approx price USD 7, CAD 6,7 (SEK 51), excl freight costs.

The Swedish Research Council for Environment, Agricultural Sciences and Spatial Planning
www.formas.se

Formas Fokuserar

Climate refugees coming

According to the UN the Sahel Belt South of Sahara is one of the areas where are large amount of the population could end up being climate refugees. People live on the edge of existence, so even small changes could have a dramatic impact. METRO WORLD NEWS

Go Green

Niger fleeing climate change

Catastrophe nears in region as people forced to leave because of drought

Go Green

SUSANNE SAYERS
Metro World News

El Hadj Ali Mago has his own definition of happiness: To see his family, his tribe and his cattle thrive and not having to move from place-to-place find enough grassland for the cattle.

This year his chances of happiness are slim. Here, at the edge of the Sahara desert in Niger, the rainy season stopped some weeks ago. There should be new, tall and green grass, the cattle — the foundation of both wealth and health here — should be in peak condition.

But the grass is almost non-existent, only little patches of short, yellow straws are scattered in the sand. And the ribs on the cattle are seen clearly.

KLAVS BO CHRISTENSEN/METRO WORLD NEWS

El Hadj Ali Mago is a wealthy man by local standards — owning over 100 cows.

"We may have to move, at least some of us. And I will have to sell some of the cattle, so we have chance of buying millet for people and food for the remaining cows," Ali Mago explains.

Large parts of the Sahel Region, the semi-dry area just below Sahara, are threatened this year, according to FAO, the UN food and agricultural organization. Drought and famine are familiar crisis to Ali Mago and the other inhabitants of Niger. But in last few years it has changed.

50 50 million will be the total of climate refugees in just a couple of years, according to some reports.

"We would have a serious drought in this region every five or ten years. Now, the frequency is increasing, and there are only three years between the droughts in some areas. It doesn't give the population time to recover, to adapt," explains climate consultant Awaiss Yahaya.

But everywhere in the region empty remains of windblown villages speak of people who didn't come back. Sadly, the last adaption to climate change is flight.

Mix of Six

If Women ruled the World: Judy Chicago in Thread and She Will Always Be Younger Than Us

When: Ongoing until Jan. 23
Where: Art Gallery of Calgary

Popular artist is featured showcasing her many artistries.

Once upon a Christmas presented by Centre Stage Theatre

When: Ongoing until Dec. 26
Where: Stage West

Get into the Christmas spirit with this Christmas feature play.

Calgary Zoolights

Where: Calgary Zoo

Capture the essence of the Zoo at night when lights brighten up the sky and warm yourself with a hot chocolate.

PBR: Canadian National Finals

When: Dec. 4-5
Where: Saddledome

One of the most prestigious bull riding competitions north of the US right here in Calgary for the weekend. Tickets $15-$100

Bombardier World Cup Winterstart

When: All weekend
Where: Lake Louise

Men's and women's downhill skiing competition and other activities.

Balancing Acts: Calgary's 8th annual Disability Arts Festival

When: Dec. 2-5
Where: Big Secret Theatre, EPOCR Centre

The longest-running professional Disability Arts Festival in the world. People with disabilities — pay what you can.

Hold your own climate change talks— at the dinner table tonight.

If you're keeping a close eye on the talks in Copenhagen, you're probably the type of person who thinks about the kind of future we're creating. So why not start your own climate change talks around the dinner table tonight? About how to save energy. About how to reduce waste. And about making the choice for clean, green electricity.

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Has Kings of Leon singer found somebody he can use?
Three weeks after her split with country singer Chuck Wicks, Julianne Hough was spotted with Kings of Leon's Jared Followill at a Nashville bar. The pair cuddled at the Lipstick Lounge Tuesday night, people.com reports. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity Buzz

Are Jude and Sienna an item once again?

HE JUST CAN'T QUIT HER Jude Law and Sienna Miller have been denying they're back together, but sources say things have gotten very serious once again.

"Jude has told his ex-wife Sadie (Frost) that Sienna is back in his life," a source says, according to Hollyscoop. On top of that, Miller was spotted leaving Law's apartment just minutes after him one morning this week.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Celebrity tweets

Today everyone has a different reaction to the Tiger Woods scandal: Reggie Bush goes after the other woman, Jeremy Piven doesn't want to talk about it, Jim Carrey tries some new material, and Ciara thinks the whole country has a problem..

@reggie_bush
This TRICK tryng 2 get famous off Tiger but funny thing is in a few weeks nobody will know her name! Then it's back 2 reality sweety! Lol!

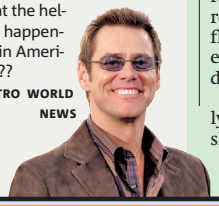
@jeremypiven
Just move on, let Tiger out of the woods.

@JimCarrey
type quickly...must be 1st to say it! "Tiger... next time use a driver!" if u you didn't love that joke someone has stolen my phone.

@ciara
It seems like cheating is the new trend, and if you dont do it, it aint cool.

what the hello is happening in America!!??

METRO WORLD NEWS



Portman admits to trying pot

TOKIN' ACTRESS Natalie Portman has confessed to smoking cannabis, female-first.co.uk reports. The actress tried the drug in her 20s because she missed out on the usual experimental teenage experiences because she was making movies from the age of 11.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Ronnie Wood arrested for assault

OUT OF CONTROL? Ronnie Wood of the Rolling Stones was released on bail yesterday after being arrested for possible assault in southern England, police and his spokesman said.

Police in Surrey said a 62-year-old man from the town of Esher was arrested Wednesday night on suspicion of assault in connection with a domestic incident on Claygate High Street, south of London.

Police said he was bailed out on yesterday and he will face further inquiries in January.

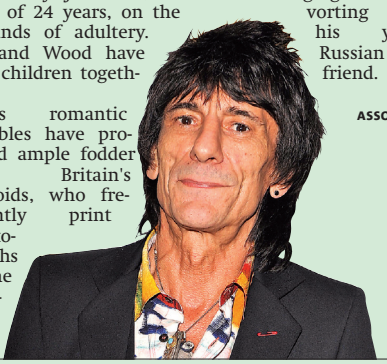
They did not release any details about the incident.

"I can confirm that there was an incident last night and that Ronnie Wood was arrested," said David Rigg, Wood's spokesman. "He has since been released on police bail."

Wood's private life has been in turmoil for more than a year since he started a relationship with Russian Ekaterina Ivanova. That led to his divorce last month by Jo Wood, his wife of 24 years, on the grounds of adultery. He and Wood have two children together.

His romantic troubles have provided ample fodder for Britain's tabloids, who frequently print photographs of the craggy, aging rocker cavorting with his young Russian girlfriend.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Farrah's son cleaning up his act

HE'S GOT A GUARDIAN *ANGEL* Farrah Fawcett's son is said to be making good progress in his treatment for drug addiction, female-first.co.uk reports.

Redmond O'Neal — son of the late actress and her long-term partner Ryan O'Neal — was praised by judge Michael Tynan on Wednesday for his efforts to get clean.

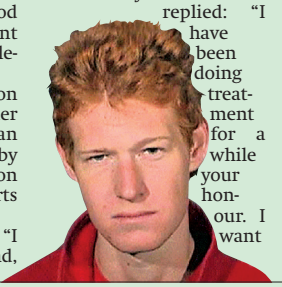
The judge told O'Neal: "I told you to turn it around, and it looks like you did."

The 24-year-old actor replied: "I have been doing treatment for a while your honour. I want to do something different. I want to stay clean."

O'Neal — who has a history of drug problems – was arrested in September 2008 along with his father after authorities found methamphetamine at the actor's Malibu home.

The aspiring actor was then arrested in April this year for taking drugs into jail.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Brady mum on gender of child

WHATEVER IT IS, I WOULD LIKE TO TRADE PLACES WITH IT Tom Brady and Gisele Bundchen are eagerly awaiting the arrival of their first child, due this month, though only Brady knows if it's a boy or a girl.

"I wanted to find out and she didn't, so she said, 'Go ahead.' It will be a surprise for her," he tells WEEI Sports Radio. "I'm really the only one that knows at this point. My dad asked me. I haven't told him. It's a pretty good feeling knowing something that no one else knows."

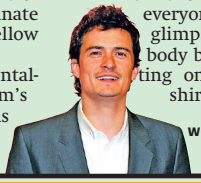
METRO WORLD NEWS

Did Orlando Bloom strip down in a Vegas restaurant?

SHOWOFFS Orlando Bloom must have been inspired by his Las Vegas surroundings because he put on a little show himself while dining with girlfriend Miranda Kerr at Palazzo's restaurant, baring a bit of flesh after an unfortunate encounter with a fellow diner's cocktail.

"A drink was accidentally spilled on Bloom's shirt," a source tells Page Six. "Within 30 minutes, someone arrived with three brand-new shirts." Instead of slipping off to the restroom, Bloom made his choice at the table. "He took his stained shirt off and let everyone catch a glimpse of his body before putting on a white shirt."

METRO WORLD NEWS



Baxter's TV hubby speaks out about her revelation

FAMILY TIES The first person to laud Meredith Baxter for her decision to come out publicly as a lesbian is her TV husband, Michael Gross, people.com reports.

"She's one of my favorite people in the world, and I'm just thrilled that it's no longer a secret, and that's about the size of it," says Gross, who played the dad on the 1980s sitcom Family Ties. Gross, 62, has known about Baxter's sexuality for four years, and he counts the actress, also 62, among his best friends.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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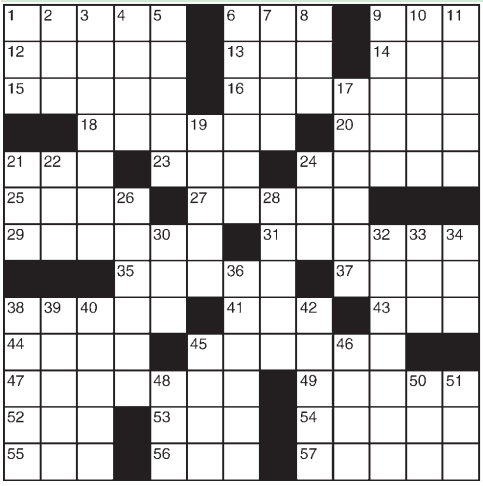
BT BREAKFAST TELEVISION

Today Snowy -3 C / -10 C
Saturday Snowy -9 C / -13 C
Sunday Mostly cloudy -18 C / -20 C

Andrew Schultz, Meteorologist – Breakfast Television
"I get to spread the word on how your day, evening or weekend will shape up with our ever-changing weather here in Alberta."
WEEKDAYS AT 6 A.M.

Take Five



ACROSS

1 Subordinate Clauses?
6 Kreskin's claim
9 Performance
12 Percolate
13 Multipurpose truck
14 Shad product
15 Special domain
16 Masked bandit?
18 Not so hot
20 Pumps up the volume
21 Miss Piggy's pronoun
23 Tibetan beast
24 Wooden box
25 Twinge, as of hunger
27 Indistinct
29 Tale of Danny and Sandy
31 Legendary monster, familiarly
35 Haile Selassie disciple
37 "Smooth Operator" singer
38 Humdinger
41 Historic time
43 Anti
44 Decorative case for pins
45 Cheap Monopoly avenue
47 Dionysus' alias
49 Speechify
52 Will Smith biopic
53 Raw rock
54 "Psycho" setting
55 "Comin' Thro' the —"
56 Conclusion
57 Furtive sort

DOWN

1 Bygone times, in bygone times
2 Romanian coin
3 H1N1 defense
4 Reverberate
5 As a wallflower might
6 Archimedes' cry
7 Luminary
8 Chest muscle, for short
9 Scent
10 Take over
11 On edge
17 Loving touch
19 Barry and Brubeck
21 Auto ad stat
22 Rowing need
24 Prompt
26 Vampire deterrent
28 Deform by twisting
30 Put into words
32 Pouchlike
33 "— not choose to run"
34 Bard's nightfall
36 Backcombed
38 Preclude
39 Leghorn's locale
40 Desi Jr.'s sister
42 Fermi's bits
45 Scorch
46 Unyielding
48 Weeding tool
50 Jetsam of 1773
51 Wapiti

Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

	3			1	4		2	
4								
				9	7		8	5
3		6		4		1		
			1		8			
		2		3		9		6
1	6		8	5				
								3
	9		4	7			5	

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

8	9	7	2	5	3	4	6	1
2	5	1	4	7	6	3	8	9
6	3	4	8	9	1	2	5	7
9	6	8	3	1	4	7	2	5
4	1	3	7	2	5	6	9	8
7	2	5	6	8	9	1	3	4
5	4	6	9	3	7	8	1	2
3	8	9	1	4	2	5	7	6
1	7	2	5	6	8	9	4	3

On the web

For more games and 60 additional daily cartoon strips, visit metronews.ca

Metro Recipe of the Day

Italian Cheese Polenta with Quick Ratatouille

INGREDIENTS:
2 tbsp (25 ml) olive oil
1 red onion, thin wedges
2 garlic cloves, crushed
1 red pepper, sliced
1 zucchini, small chunks
1 eggplant, small chunks
1 chili pepper, seeded and sliced
4 cups (1 l) boiling water
7 oz (200 g) polenta
5 oz (150 g) dolcelatte cheese, cubed
14 oz (398 ml) can chopped tomatoes with basil
1/2 oz (15 g) fresh basil, torn

METHOD:
1. Heat oil in large pot over medium heat and add onion, garlic, pepper, zucchini, eggplant and chili pepper. Cover; cook, stirring occasionally, until vegetables begin to soften. Add salt and ground black pepper.
2. Meanwhile, put boiling water in large nonstick pot, bring to boil and add 1 tsp (5 ml) salt. Stir polenta into water with wooden spoon.
3. Lower heat and stir briskly until polenta begins to thicken and bubble slowly. Half-cover pot and cook 5 minutes, stirring often. Remove from heat and mix in cheese. Season with ground black pepper, then cover and set aside.
4. Stir tomatoes into ratatouille and cook until vegetables are tender. Add basil. Spoon polenta onto plates and put ratatouille on top, with garnish if using.

SERVES 4

rd.ca

For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to rd.ca or check out Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton sallybrompton.com

For Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

ARIES ♈
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
The best time to resolve any differences you may have with partners and colleagues is now, while Venus, planet of harmony, aspects Saturn.

TAURUS ♉
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Work and money matters will go well today — you won't believe how easy it is to win others round to your way of thinking.

GEMINI ♊
MAY 22-JUNE 21
A more relaxed attitude to life in general and to relationships in particular is a must today. A positive Venus-Saturn aspect indicates that everything will work out.

CANCER ♋
JUNE 22-JULY 22
Do not allow others to take advantage of your generous nature. Believe it or not there are people out there who would rip you off.

LEO ♌
JULY 23-AUG 23
Make the most of your social opportunities today because when Mercury changes signs you will find that your responsibilities eat into your time.

VIRGO ♍
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Today's Venus-Saturn link will make it easy for you to impress important people. You don't have to try too hard and you don't have to be too aggressive.

LIBRA ♎
SEPT 23-OCT 23
The people you have to deal with today, both socially and professionally, will respond more to charm than coercion, so don't be too harsh.

SCORPIO ♏
OCT 24-NOV 22
You have allowed yourself to be taken in by fears and doubts that have no basis in reality. Why that should be so is anyone's guess.

SAGITTARIUS ♐
NOV 23-DEC 21
A relationship problem is not as serious as you imagine, so stop worrying about it and focus instead on the good things you have in common.

CAPRICORN ♑
DEC 22-JAN 20
With values planet Venus aspecting your ruler Saturn today it is essential that you get the balance of your life right.

AQUARIUS ♒
JAN 21-FEB 18
Cosmic activity in your chart urges you to forget the things that have gone wrong and focus on the things that are still going right.

PISCES ♓
FEB 19-MARCH 20
If you have fallen out with someone, either at home or at work, now is the perfect time to say "sorry."

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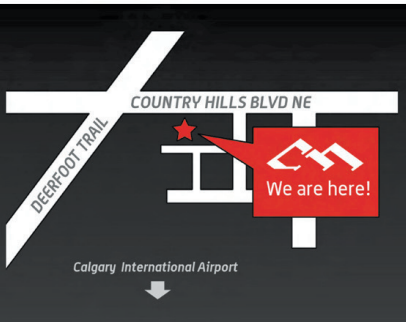
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